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Bulova Byline

The Monthly Newsletter from Chairman Bulova

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what's going on
in Fairfax County?



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January 2013

Greetings,

So, on December 21, 2012 the world did not come to an end. It was a cold, grey, overcast day with not a whole lot happening, at least for me. It was, however, the last day of the ancient Mayan "Long" calendar, or 13th "baktun." If not the end of the world, this passage was meant to symbolize a time of change. And of course, if there is one thing we can all be sure of, it is that *change will happen*.



See inside this Byline for information about some of the changes that are in store for us in 2013.

* Of particular interest, I've provided some details of H.R. 8 which temporarily averts the **Fiscal Cliff** we have feared tumbling over. While the agreement marks a significant change in tax policy by allowing for the first income tax rate increase in nearly two decades, it delays across-the-board cuts by offering \$24 billion in other spending reductions. The "sequester", a series of automatic cuts in federal spending, are delayed for two months, meaning that the drama is not over and won't be until probably later this year. This continued uncertainty has a negative effect on Fairfax County's economic climate.

* Once again, this will not be an easy **Budget Year** for Fairfax County. Recovery from the Great Recession has been sluggish, with

Volunteer Opportunities

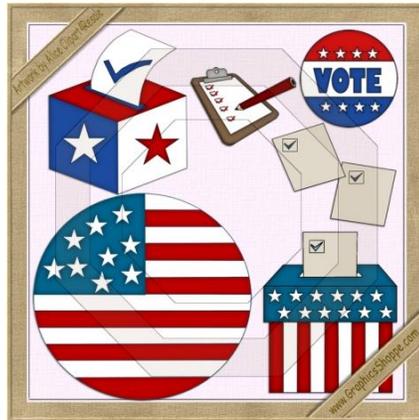
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local revenue projections essentially flat. Budget season shifts to the front burner later this month when the Superintendent of Schools releases his recommended budget. County Executive Ed Long will present his Advertised Budget at our Board of Supervisors meeting on February 26. His presentation can be viewed live on Cable Channel 16 or by watching live stream by going to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/vod.htm>.

Adoption of the Budget is the most important thing we do every year. When we adopt the budget, we are investing in our community's priorities. It is important that the community be at the table when budget choices are being made. There will be considerable opportunity for you to participate in this critical process. See inside for a timeline for the **Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget Process**.

* On Thursday of this week, Fairfax County's **Bi-Partisan Election Process Improvement Commission** met for the first time. The Commission, chaired jointly by former Chairman Kate Hanley and former Dranesville Supervisor Stu Mendelsohn, consists of representatives from each of our Magisterial Districts, the Democratic and Republican Parties of Fairfax, and organizations such as the Federation of Citizens' Associations, the Bar Association, etc. Additionally, organizations serving Fairfax County's major minority populations have provided their nominees to serve on the Commission.



Meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2013. Recommendations of the Commission will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in March.

Meetings are open to the public and will be held in room 232 of the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22025. Meetings will take place on Thursdays at 7 p.m. with the next meeting taking place Thursday, January 17, 2013. Recommendations of the Commission will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in March.

* Last year Fairfax County learned that a Settlement had been reached between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the U.S. Department of Justice that calls for the closure of the **Northern Virginia Training Center** on Braddock Road. The training center has served intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals and their families in our community since the 1960s. Over the years, the center has benefited from caring and compassionate professional administration, considerable volunteerism, and family participation.

Inside is more information about the transition to community-based care.

Fairfax County has an interest in making sure residents of the Training Center are successfully moved into appropriate community-based settings. We are also interested in the disposition of the Training Center campus, 80 acres of land opposite George Mason University in the Braddock District. These issues will be on our plate during the coming year.

* Fairfax County's future will be the **redevelopment and revitalization** of our older commercial and retail areas. Encouraging easily walkable, transit-oriented development will offer our present and future population with more lifestyle choices than are available today, where it's not necessary to get behind the wheel of a car for even a small errand.



Some areas in the county where revitalization is encouraged are in central Annandale, Baileys Crossroads, Merrifield, the Richmond Highway corridor, central Springfield, the older Lake Anne area of Reston and some older areas of McLean.

As the county is emerging from the recession I expect to see private sector interest in development in these areas. Already there is activity for redevelopment of Springfield Mall and Lake Anne. Redevelopment in Merrifield has already begun to take shape nicely with attractive residential and retail uses replacing older industrial areas.

Of course a lot will continue to move forward in Tysons as redevelopment begins to fill in around the new Silver Line stations which are expected to open this year.

* This Byline regularly provides information about activities at the exciting **Arts Workhouse at Lorton**. See inside for a list of programs during the coming weeks and months.

Congress transferred this 2,300 acre former D.C. prison facility and lands to Fairfax County in 2002. It is critical that sufficient vibrancy be developed in this area for its Re-use/revitalization to be successful. The former Lorton prison site has tremendous potential for recreational, cultural and historic opportunities. More restaurant and retail uses are needed in order to attract visitors and make the

County's investment in Lorton work. Working with the community, changes to the Comprehensive Plan will be needed to provide the flexibility needed to make revitalization happen.

These are just some of the highlights for what to expect during the months ahead. 2013 holds much promise for Fairfax County and I look forward to working with you as the promise unfolds.

I hope you will join me on January 16th for my **Chairman's New Year Reception** (see inside for details). This event is my opportunity to say thanks to our dedicated workforce, volunteers, generous corporate neighbors and active members of the community who make Fairfax County the great place it is! It's also a lot of fun and a great time to catch up! See you then.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Bulova". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Bulova

Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

What the Fiscal Cliff Deal Means for Fairfax County

Like many area residents, I have been following the federal fiscal situation with great interest. As 2012 drew to a close, there were very important unresolved questions about taxes, spending and the national debt ceiling before Congress with a rapidly approaching deadline. Taken together, these three factors created a 'fiscal cliff' which could have resulted in the national economy declining into another recession.

Federal leaders were able to reach a resolution to postpone sequestration - legally mandated spending reductions. The agreement focuses on tax issues and delayed negotiations on sequestration until March 1st. Some of the key changes to federal taxes that may affect county residents include the elimination of the 'Payroll Tax Holiday', which returns the Social Security payroll tax to 6.5% from 4.5%, and the permanent extension of the Bush tax cuts for individuals making up to \$400,000 and couples making up to \$450,000; above these limits, the tax rate will revert to 39.6% from 35%. The agreement also extended and increased the commuter tax benefit from \$125 per month to \$240 for 2013 which creates a stronger incentive for regional employers to encourage employees to use transit.

Since the agreement delayed sequestration rather than addressing it through spending reductions,

sequestration remains the biggest federal issue facing the county and the outcome remains uncertain. The Board of Supervisors supports a balanced, thoughtful approach to federal deficit reduction rather than automatic, percentage-based cuts and opposes actions that will shift costs to localities or create unfunded mandates. We continue to press for a timely resolution to these challenges because our region's economy is heavily involved with the federal government and the uncertainty this situation has created is already affecting the regional economy, local businesses and county residents. At the same time, the Board is also taking a proactive approach to leverage Fairfax County's proximity to the national capitol, our high caliber workforce and our strong business climate to attract federal consolidations and contracts that may be part of a federal budget solution.

FY 2014 Budget Timeline

Please see below for a quick timeline on the FY 2014 Budget Timeline. Continue to check <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/website> for opportunities to voice your concerns on the budget.

| Budget Event | Date |
|---|-----------------------|
| Release of the County's FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan | February 26, 2013 |
| Board of Supervisors' Meeting: FY 2013 Third Quarter | March 5, 2013 |
| Public Hearing on FY 2014 Budget - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center | April 9, 2013 |
| Public Hearing on FY 2014 Budget - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center | April 10, 2013 |
| Public Hearing on FY 2014 Budget - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center | April 11, 2013 |
| FY 2014 Board Budget Mark-up and Approval of FY 2013 Third Quarter | April 23, 2013 |
| Formal Adoption of the FY 2014 Budget | April 30, 2013 |
| Beginning of FY 2014 | July 1, 2013 |

Northern Virginia Training Center

In January 2012, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the U.S. Department of Justice reached a settlement that affects how the state treats individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The terms of that settlement include the closing of four of Virginia's five training centers, including the Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC) located in Fairfax County. Losing this facility will no doubt have a great impact on not only the individuals living at the training center and their families, but also the larger Fairfax County community.

Fairfax County will continue work begun last year with our partners in the Commonwealth, the Community Services Board, and others to ensure that residents of the training centers and their families who depend on the services it provides will be treated fairly, respectfully and with sensitivity as they transition to a community based care system. County staff has had discussions with officials from the Commonwealth last year on creating the capacity to treat residents of the training center as they transition out of the facility. Fairfax County continues to

discuss options for utilizing the land including forming creative partnerships with private and non-profit organizations.

As alternatives are explored and developed, we will engage with the community to find the best way to meet these needs by the time the training center is required to close in 2015.

More information about the settlement agreement and transition plans on the DBHDS Web Site at www.dbhds.virginia.gov/settlement.htm. This site will be updated periodically as new information becomes available. You can also contact the NVTC directly at (703) 323-4000.

New Year at the Workhouse



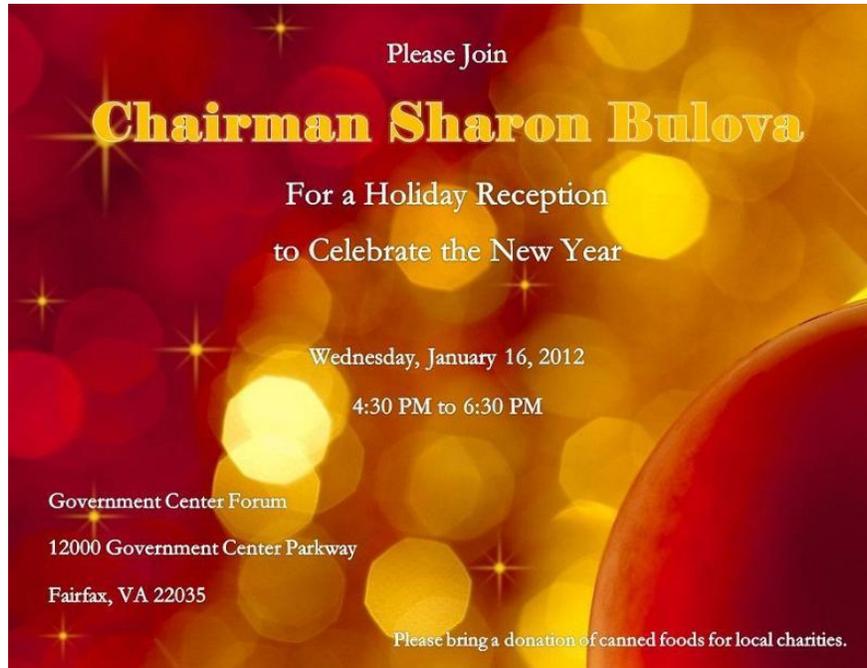
The Workhouse, located at 9601 Ox Road Lorton, VA 22079, is opening up a brand new 2013! Here are some new things that you can expect in the New Year, as well as the return of some old favorites.

You will be able to travel back in time to a world before the Workhouse Arts Center and learn the exciting history of the Lorton prison at the Prison Museum's new lecture series [*Uncover the Prison In Your Backyard*](#). These lectures will cover everything from the prison's conception to its turnover to Fairfax County, including tales of what life was like from prison inmates and correction officers that lived and worked here. These lectures will occur on the second Wednesday of every month from January to May.

[*Collectors Showcase*](#) returns to the Workhouse on February 23, offering guests the opportunity to support the arts and take a piece home with them. With several levels of ticket packages starting at \$100, guests can enter their name into a lottery system with the chance to pick their favorite piece of art and add it to their own personal collection. Whether you are an experienced art collector, or just starting, you will be sure to have wonderful night of fun, food and most importantly, art!

With the popularity of the holiday children's performances, we are excited to announce the next feature starting this February. Soon young audiences and their families will be able to embark on a storybook fairytale, [*Sleeping Beauty: The Broken Spell*](#). A story of family, friendship and the power of true love, this princess story will win the hearts of everyone-both young and young at heart!

Holiday Reception January 16th



Volunteers Needed to Help Low Income Families Prepare Tax Returns

As part of the Northern Virginia CASH Campaign, the VITA Program provides free tax preparation services to low-income families. Working with local businesses and government agencies, the mission is to raise awareness about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and increase financial literacy among low-income taxpayers. This initiative runs from January 2013 to mid-April and recruits local members of the community to prepare taxes, greet customers and coordinate sites.

Last year, volunteers donated approximately 16,439 hours of their time and helped low-income families in Northern Virginia receive more than \$7 million in federal tax refunds. The average VITA client received \$1,636 in federal tax refunds and \$1,857 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). More than \$1.5 million was awarded back to those families who qualified for the Child Tax Credit (CTC). In total, volunteers helped more than 4,600 families prepare their taxes last year.

More information can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/>. Additional information and copies of the publications may also be found at www.nvacash.org. If you would like to request copies of the materials, please contact Attia Mahmood at 703-324-7731; TTY.

Join the Lifetime Leadership Program (LLP)

The Lifetime Leadership Program is for those who have a lifetime of accumulated skills and leadership, and would like to use their wealth of knowledge to make a difference in their lives and in the community.

LLP is a partnership between Leadership Fairfax and Volunteer Fairfax, supported by the Positive Aging Coalition, George Mason University, Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, and Area Agency on Aging. This 2-1/2 month program offers six bi-weekly program days, providing an overview of ways to transition into your next life chapter and insight into the Fairfax County community and its needs. The Spring 2013 class will begin Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

We encourage you to register for one of the following sessions:

- Tuesday, January 15, at 11:00 AM at Leadership Fairfax, 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350, Vienna, VA 22182
- Thursday, February 7, at 11:00 AM at Leadership Fairfax, 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350, Vienna, VA 22182

If you have any questions or wish to RSVP for an information session, please contact Moniek by email (Moniek@leadershipfairfax.org) or by phone (703.752.7504). More information available at www.leadershipfairfax.org/lifetimeleadersprogram.

New Express Connector Bus Service

On January 14, 2013, bus service between the Burke VRE and Tysons will begin operation. Buses on this route will use the 495 Express lanes, and according to the Fairfax County Department of Transportation, the **vehicles will travel on average 55 mph on the Beltway, even during rush hour**. More information, including a map, can be found on the Fairfax County Website <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/routes/expresslanes/>. You can also follow the Virginia Rail Express (VRE) Facebook page for updated information. For more on Dulles Rail Service: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/routes/dullesrail/>.

County staff will be looking for input from current and potential riders about what can be done to improve upcoming bus proposals. Dates for public meetings have not yet been set but please check in at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/> for the latest updates.

Lastly, **you are invited to preview the Express Connector!** The inaugural trip to Tysons will take place begin January 12, at 10 a.m. at the Burke Centre VRE Station, 10399 Premier Court, Burke, VA 22015. Help yourself to coffee or hot chocolate, tour the bus, and learn more about the Express Connector routes and schedules. For more information about the event please contact Ellen Kamilakis at ellen.kamilakis@fairfaxcounty.gov.

1,000 Trees in 1,000 Days

The I-95 Express Lanes, high occupancy toll lanes that will span approximately 29 miles of I-95 from Garrisonville Road in Stafford County to Edsall Road in Fairfax County, are on track to open in late 2014. Tree and brush clearing along the roadway is a necessary part of this project and Transurban and Fluor have launched the "1,000 Trees in 1,000 Days" program to counter this clearing and return some of the greenery which makes the area so beautiful. Residents of the I-95 and I-395 corridor can recommend places in their communities where they'd like to see a new tree. Locations include schools, parks, or other areas in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Give your input by visiting the website 95ExpressLanes.com/1000trees or emailing info@95expresslanes.com.

Your Chance to Make a Difference

I hope you will consider some of the great volunteer opportunities in Fairfax County:

Fairfax County needs a **Meals on Wheels** coordinator for the **Mount Vernon** area. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The **Herndon Senior Center**, 873 Grace Street, Herndon, needs a volunteer musician to play soothing music for participants. The center has a piano. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to do **grocery shopping** and run errands for older adults in **Falls Church**. Spanish-speakers a plus! Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The **Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities throughout the area. Training is provided in Spring 2013. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs **Respite Care volunteers** throughout the county to give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods in Fairfax County. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.