

Bulova Byline

The Monthly Newsletter from Chairman Sharon Bulova

March 2014



[Fairfax County Board of Supervisors](#)
[Chairman Sharon Bulova](#)

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Tell me what you think!

Do you have questions, concerns, or ideas for the County? Contact my office now!

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Greetings,

March 2014 came in more like a polar bear than the proverbial lion. Let's hope it turns into a quiet little lamb before too much longer.

On March 3rd, while nature was showering us with about eight inches of snow and ice, I joined our Public Works employees as they cleared roads and parking lots around the County Courthouse and Massey Building.



Me and Emergency Operations Staffer and Plow Driver Randy Starling

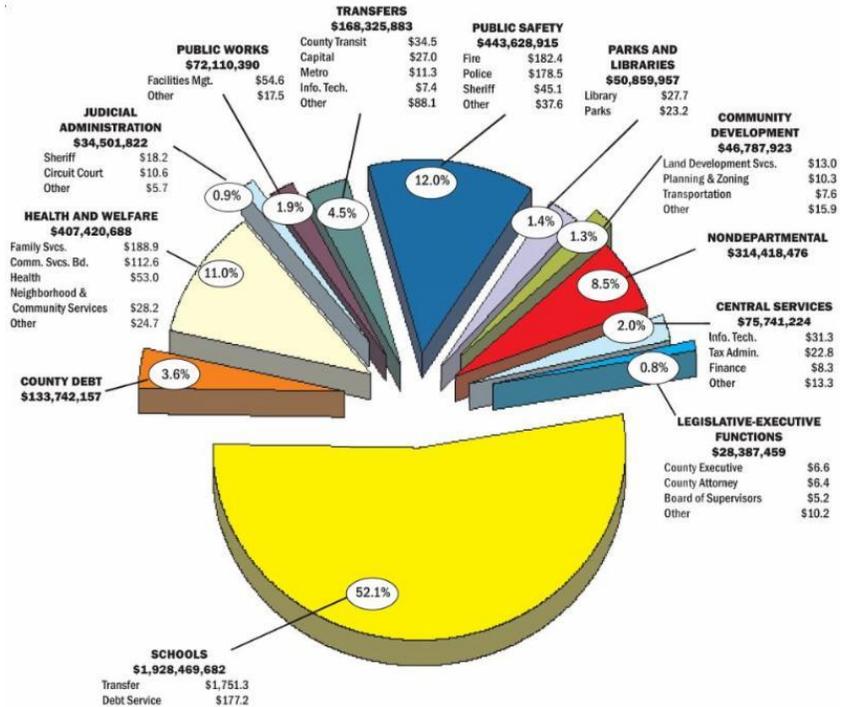
These crews, who ordinarily work in the areas of trash collection and recycling, stormwater maintenance, or waste water treatment and line repair, become "first responders" during a storm emergency. Some of them live as far away as West Virginia and spend well over an hour to commute into Fairfax every day. I was extremely impressed with their hard work and dedication as they put in twelve hour shifts to make our public facilities clear and safe for our residents to use.

While out during the storm, I watched VDOT (the Virginia Department of Transportation) hard at work clearing main roads and subdivision streets. Most people don't realize that the state, not the County, collects your gasoline taxes and is responsible for the maintenance of pretty much all roads in the County, with the exception of private streets maintained by homeowner associations. They have done an exceptional job this winter dealing with several heavy snow storms. The funding made available thanks to the passage of House Bill 2313 last year has been put to very good work throughout the icy winter of 2014!

Lastly, coordination among federal, state and local governments has vastly improved our regional response to weather (and other) emergency events. Regional emergency conference sessions have helped employers to make intelligent calls about weather-related closings or late openings that leave parking lots and streets clear for the plows to do their work safely and efficiently.

Thank you to all of our county employees and state partners who have a role in keeping our community safe.

On February 25th, County Executive Ed Long released his **Advertised Fiscal Year 2015 Budget**. A wealth of information about his proposed budget and the budget process can be found on the County's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.



FY2015 Advertised General Fund Disbursements

The Advertised Budget reflects many different economic factors, including a slight decline in commercial tax revenues and lower than expected sales, hotel, and business and professional license tax revenues. We are not recovering as quickly as we would like from the Great Recession. The one area that is experiencing an upward tick is the assessed value of residential property in the County. This will be a very challenging budget.

At our Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 4th, our Board approved my motion to advertise a tax rate of \$1.105 per \$100 of assessed value, an increase of 2 cents over the current rate. This is an advertisement (not adoption) of a tax rate that will become the ceiling for any increase in the rate. The Board can adopt a lower rate, but not a higher rate than what we advertised.

Some Budget Facts:

- The **total County budget**, (General Fund Budget plus other funds funded by non-real estate tax revenues, such as solid waste and sewer fees, stormwater fees, etc.) totals \$7 billion.
- The **General Fund Budget** (County Services plus the School Transfer) is **\$3.7 billion**, an increase of 3.29% over FY 2014 Adopted Budget.
- The **General Fund Direct Budget** (County services only, not Schools) is **\$1.36 billion**, 3.96% over FY 2014.
- The **School Transfer** for School Operating and Debt Service is **\$1.93 billion**, an increase of 2.07% over last year.
- The **total Advertised School Budget** for FY 2015 (County Transfer plus state and federal funding) is **\$2.5 billion**, a 2.4% increase over FY 2014.
- A good site to view the FCPS budget request is [available here](#).
- Every cent on the tax rate is equal to **\$22 million** in revenue. Each cent is equal to **\$50.00** on the average homeowner's tax bill.
- **Because of rising residential assessments** (the fair market value of property), should the current tax rate of \$1.085 be adopted in late April when the Board "marks up" and then formally adopts the budget, the average annual residential bill would increase by \$331.67.
- If a two cent increase were to be adopted, which would put the tax rate at \$1.105, the average homeowner's annual real estate tax bill would increase by an additional \$100.

It is this Chairman's intention to seek ways to adopt a budget with a tax rate that is less than a two cent increase.

There are a number of variables that will go into the eventual adoption of the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. I believe it is fair and prudent to advertise a higher threshold so that public discussion and debate is not cut off at the start.

Some of the factors and variables that I would like to note:

- The county executive has included in his budget an across the board increase in employee compensation of 1.29%.
- The Schools have pledged step increases for employees using \$41 million in additional funding.
- While the School Board has requested an increase in their transfer of \$98 million, or 5.7%, approximately \$34 million of this has been addressed in the Advertised Budget which includes a 2% increase in the School Transfer.
- The 2% increase in the transfer covers student population growth.
- Additionally between \$27 million and \$32 million is

included in the state budget that the General Assembly will adopt.

- This results in a actual gap of approximately \$32 million to fully fund the School Board's request.

On Tuesday, our Board supported a motion made by Supervisor John Cook to ask the county executive to identify possible County savings or reductions to be put on the table so that the public knows that we are seeking savings in order to fund the school's request and to keep tax bills at an affordable level for our constituents. During the past five years, approximately \$170 million in reductions have already been taken on the County side of the budget.

Throughout the next weeks my colleagues and I will be providing extensive community outreach opportunities for discussion on the budget. A number of Budget Town Meetings and Forums will be hosted throughout the County where residents can learn about the budget and how it could affect County services and programs. Information on these meetings and other opportunities will be listed at the Department of Management and Budget website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb. You can also be kept up to date on the Budget process through future editions of this Bulova Byline newsletter, my website (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/>), and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SharonBulova).

I look forward to having the community at the table as we work together to keep Fairfax County the incredible place it is to live, work, and play.

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

FY 2015 Budget Timeline

February

Feb 25: Release of the County Executive's FY 2015 Advertised Budget Plan

March

March 4: Advertisement for FY 2015 Tax Rate and FY 2015 Third Quarter
March 18: BOS Budget Committee Meeting

April 1 – April 15

April 1: BOS Budget Committee Meeting
April 8: 3pm-Effective Tax Rate Hearing
April 8: 6pm- Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget
April 9: 3pm-Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget
April 10: 3pm-Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget

April 16 – April 30

April 18: BOS Budget Committee Meeting
April 22: FY 2015 Board Budget Mark-up and Approval of FY 2015 Third Quarter
April 29: Formal Adoption of the FY 2015 Budget Plan

All public hearings take place in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035) and are open to the public. To sign up to speak, please visit https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm or call 703-324-3151.

Evolution Series

Evolution of the WORKPLACE

ANNOUNCEMENT: Chairman Sharon Bulova will host the 3rd installment of her annual *Evolution*

Series on June 9, 2014 from 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Government Center Board Auditorium. Past events include the *Evolution of Fairfax (2012)* followed by the *Evolution of Transportation (2013)*. This year's event is titled the *Evolution of the Workplace* and is designed to be a fun and interesting look at how Fairfax County's workplace evolved over time and what the workplace of the future will look like. All are welcome to attend.

Information on registration and how you can participate in the event will be available soon at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman. If you have any specific questions or concerns please call 703-324-2321.

Tax Resources for Residents



It's that time of year again and Fairfax County has helpful resources you can use to prepare your 2013 income taxes. Federal and state income tax forms can be found through the [County website](#) and the deadlines are as follows:

Federal Income Tax: April 15

Individual State Income Tax: May 1

Corporation Income Tax: 15th day of the fourth month following the close of the corporation's taxable year.

[Free income tax preparation is available for those making less than \\$52,000.](#)

As a reminder, Fairfax County also provides [tax relief](#) for Personal Property and Real Estate taxes. Relief is offered to seniors (65 and over) and/or permanently disabled persons who meet the income and asset eligibility requirements.

For more helpful information and contact numbers, please visit the [County website](#).

Leadership Fairfax: Where Fairfax Finds Leaders!



**LEADERSHIP
FAIRFAX**

*Educates, Prepares, Inspires and Connects
Leaders to Serve and Strengthen Our Community*

[Leadership Fairfax](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding, training and growing leaders in Northern Virginia, has been developing leaders in Fairfax County since 1987. Graduates, numbering over 1,500, connect the Fairfax community across all sectors -- public, private, and nonprofit -- and provide a pool of informed and enthusiastic leaders with an investment in the positive future of the region.

Leadership Fairfax's **Signature Program (LFI)** is designed for experienced, diverse leaders from all parts of the County for a 10-month, tuition-based experience. The program emphasizes experiential learning -- the participants immerse themselves in community issues, working in teams to study challenging problems in the County and develop real-world solutions. Through the process, participants

learn about their leadership style, improve their skills, and learn how to use those skills to affect real change.

The **Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI)** is a 10-month program that brings together energetic young professionals from the business, nonprofit, and government sectors. Participants polish their leadership skills, receive individual mentoring or coaching support, and participate in community service projects that enhance their personal and professional resumes. ELI develops leadership skills and competencies that accelerate the process of becoming a leader at work and in the community.

Want to find out more, or curious about which program is right for you? Register for one of the following information sessions:

- * **Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 7:30-9:00am** at Venable LLP, 8010 Towers Crescent Drive, Tysons Corner, VA 22182.
- * **Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 5:00-6:30pm** at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 1763 Fountain Drive, Reston, VA 20190.
- * **Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 4:30-6:00pm** at West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152.
- * **Thursday, April 10, 2014, 8:00-9:30am** at The Mason Inn, 4352 Mason Pond Drive (on GMU campus), Fairfax, VA 22030.

Program applications for both programs are due May 2. Please RSVP to 703.752.7550 or email info@leadershipfairfax.org with your name, organization and the information session you will attend.

Venture into Volunteering Fair



Don't miss the *Venture into Volunteering Fair* on **Thursday, March 27, 10 a.m. to noon** at Frying Pan Park Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, VA 20171. Your time and talents can create meaningful change in our community -- find out how at the Venture into Volunteering Fair! Agency reps will be on hand to discuss a wide range of community outreach opportunities including helping kids with homework, meals on wheels and serving as a court-appointed advocate. This event is free and

registration is not necessary. Call 703-704-6075, TTY 711 for information and reasonable accommodations. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation Business Roundtable



Trying to start your business from scratch, or seeking to manage a successful franchise? Network with fellow entrepreneurs and learn from small business strategists the best ways to navigate the waters of starting and growing a business. We hope you leave this session armed with new tools, fresh ideas, and supportive contacts that will help your business develop and thrive in 2014. Coffee and light breakfast will be served. This event is free and open to the public. Please email info@sfdc.org to RSVP. For event details, check out "What's Happening" at www.sfdc.org.

For additional event details: [http://www.sfdc.org/whats-](http://www.sfdc.org/whats-happening/events/business-roundtable-speaker-series/)

[happening/events/business-roundtable-speaker-series/](http://www.sfdc.org/whats-happening/events/business-roundtable-speaker-series/).

Fairfax County Community Collaboration for Disaster Resiliency Summit

Come together with other organizations that participate in disaster response and recovery at the Resiliency Summit:

- *Discuss your organization's roles and learn other's roles in community disaster resiliency*
- *Learn how disaster resiliency organizations interact with each other*
- *Start working on your organization's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)*



Register for the Resiliency Summit at <https://2014summit.eventbrite.com/>. Be sure to register early, as space is limited. This event is sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax and Fairfax County's Neighborhood and Community Services- Faith Communities in Action.

2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week

In honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), the Victim Services Section of the Fairfax County Police Department is holding its 2nd Annual NCVRW 5K Walk and Candlelight Vigil. This wonderful event gives us all an opportunity to honor our victims of crime.

Special guests and speakers include:

- **Dr. Will Marling**, Executive Director, National Organization for Victim Assistance
- **Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr.**, Fairfax County Police Department
- **Live Jazz Performance by Steve Shillingford and Peter Khan**

The event takes place Sunday, April 6, 2014 from 4:30pm-7:30pm at the Fairfax Corner Shopping Center. For more information, please call 703-246-2141.



Register now at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/NCVRW2014.

Summer Concerts and Farmers Market



Wine tastings during Concerts

I am pleased to announce that my office, in partnership with the Park Authority, will again be hosting the Evenings on the Ellipse summer concert series in the "backyard" of the Government Center.

When I served as Braddock District Supervisor, I initiated a summer concerts-in-the-parks series called **Braddock Nights**. Last year, as Chairman, I continued this tradition of live music in my current location at the Fairfax County Government Center.

During the Summer season, County employees and music-loving neighbors have the opportunity to end each Thursday with the an **Evenings on the Ellipse Concert** from 5:30pm to 7:00pm on the beautiful back lawn of the Government Center. This series was hugely successful last year, and the County's two wineries, Bull Run Winery and Paradise Springs, held **weekly wine tastings during the concerts**. It is my hope that the event will have even greater success in 2014!

In addition to great music, added highlights to the Government Center's Thursday calendar include the opening and operation of the **Government Center Farmer's Market** in the front parking lot, beginning in May and lasting through October.

For more information please call 703.324.2321 or visit my website at www.fairfaxcounty.com/chairman.



Evenings on the Ellipse Concert 2013