

November
2012

Bulova Byline: Thanksgiving Edition

Thanksgiving Greetings

Holiday Letter from Chairman Bulova

During this Thanksgiving week, I want to say thanks to my Byline readers for your positive engagement in our great Fairfax County community. Good government is a two way street. I consider communication with my constituents critical in order to share information meaningfully. That you take the time to learn what is going on, let me know what you are thinking, and volunteer in the community is equally important in making government work.

In this Special Thanksgiving Byline edition I am sharing with you some of the wonderful efforts our Fairfax County community has made to reach out to our brothers and sisters in New York and New Jersey who have been affected by Hurricane Sandy. Many are still without power and struggling to re-build and recover. A disaster like this, however, often brings out the best in people and I want to share with you some of those special stories.

I am also including in this Byline County Executive Ed Long's Thanksgiving message to our Fairfax County workforce. Although the message is directed to our County employees, its thoughtful and hopeful message is something that I want to share with all of my readers. We are very fortunate to have Ed at the helm in Fairfax County.

Thanks so much for helping to make Fairfax County the great place it is to live, work and play!

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova

Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Note To Fairfax County Employees

From County Executive Edward Long

This is the time of year when we gather with family and friends to give thanks. Among the many things I'm thankful for is Team Fairfax, and I wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday.

This year, we've dealt with staffing, resource and fiscal issues, implementation of the new FOCUStime entry payroll system, the derecho storm and extreme heat, Hurricane Sandy and a presidential election. And I wrote you in late summer with the difficult news of our revenue situation and projected budget shortfall.

Now we turn to the pending sequestration, a series of federal spending reductions starting in the new year. We all hope that Congress will take a balanced fiscal approach to defuse this federal budget crisis, but we know that whatever they do will have a significant impact on the nation and Fairfax County.

Since this federal budget drama will play out in the next few weeks, we could worry and let it ruin our holidays. But I prefer to take a "glass half full" approach and give thanks for what we have and what we are able to share with others:

- This is a great place to work. During my walkabouts visiting you at your workplaces, I have seen how you provide much needed services and programs despite limited resources. The passion you show for your work is outstanding!
- In the upcoming weeks, county agencies will sponsor a number of charitable drives to help our community.
- After responding to Hurricane Sandy here, many of you are doing even more to help people in CT/NY/NJ who are still without power and recovering from the storm. For those of you who want to help, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends donating cash through trusted organizations. More information and volunteering suggestions are available online.
- Many of you are volunteering and using the 16 hours of volunteer activity leave you can receive per calendar year.
- You're giving and engaging on priority county issues through partnerships.

The Board of Supervisors also has acknowledged your contributions and

hard work by approving additional holiday leave this year, expanding the Dec. 24th holiday from a half day to a full day and adding Dec. 31st as a holiday.

So as we gather on this holiday, I give thanks that although times are difficult, we continue to work together to meet our challenges and discover our opportunities.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Ed Long

County Executive

Fairfax County's Impressive Relief Efforts to Assist our Neighbors in NY/NJ

Community lends a hand!

While the worst of Superstorm Sandy may have missed Virginia, residents in New York and New Jersey were not so lucky. Many organizations across the County organized to provide relief to those displaced and affected by the storm. Below are just a few of those efforts that Fairfax County can be proud of.

Fairfax County's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team

VATF-1 aided distressed residents in New Jersey

Fairfax County's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team, VAFT-1, was initially deployed to the Fort Dix, New Jersey area, and then sent to Little Ferry and Moonachie to conduct search and rescue operations,

partnering with the New Jersey Army National Guard units and the North Carolina Air National Guard. VATF-1 conducted water rescue operations using inflatable boats and going door-to-door, evacuating residents during the first several days after the storm. They continued to help residents by providing various types of humanitarian assistance throughout the deployment period before [returning home to Fairfax County](#).



USAR Team at work in New Jersey. [Click here](#) for more photos.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue

Coat Drive for those affected by the storm

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue mobilized community firefighters and volunteers to distribute brand-new, winter coats to children, already in poverty, whose families were devastated by the hurricane.



Freddie Mac

Partnering with Fairfax County Fire & Rescue for Food and Blanket Drive

Freddie Mac employees are taking part in a company drive for blankets and non-perishable food to help supply shelters and service organizations in the disaster region. Freddie Mac is coordinating delivery of these donations with the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department and the New York City Rescue Mission.



American Red Cross

Red Cross Recognizes Chamber Board Member Companies for Support of Sandy Disaster Relief Efforts

The Red Cross is honored to announce that several member companies of the Board of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce have recognized the critical need for Disaster Relief efforts. We are grateful to Northrop Grumman Corporation, Volkswagen Group of America, Inc., ICF International, Capital One Bank, Rolls-Royce North America, Booz Allen Hamilton and others for providing substantial gifts to support immediate disaster relief.



American Red Cross

Thank you for your donation.

Church Of Latter Day Saints (Oakton)

Clothing Collection Drive

Hundreds of volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Oakton joined together to aid the victims of Superstorm Sandy. The "Gifts of the Heart" clothing drive generated more than 5 trucks full of blankets, coats and warm winter clothes that would ultimately be sent to distressed people in New York City.



Hurricane Sandy Helping Hands

Dar Al Hijra Islamic Center

Collected Relief Supplies

The Dar Al Hijra Islamic Center worked with FEMA to collect and deliver relief supplies to distressed residents after the storm.

A poster for Dar Al Hijra Islamic Center's Hurricane Sandy Relief efforts. At the top, the center's name is written in English and Arabic, along with its address: 3159 Row Street, Falls Church, Virginia, 22044, U.S.A. Below this is a green banner with the text 'Hurricane Sandy Relief'. Underneath the banner are three small images: a house surrounded by floodwaters, a group of people working together, and a group of people in a mosque. At the bottom, a green box contains the text: 'Help Victims of Hurricane Sandy Bring Your Donation To Dar Al-Hijrah This Friday and Saturday.'

Consider Donating

If you're looking for a way to help victims of Hurricane Sandy, please think about giving to [United Way Hurricane Sandy Recovery Fund](#).

Stay Connected



"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

-Winston Churchill