

Sample Story: A Day in the Life of a Fairfax County Citizen

My Saturday was a hectic one. I got up early because I knew I had a lot to do, and took a shower. Breakfast was sausage, eggs, and coffee, and before long I was on my way. I noted before I left the house that Channel 16 announced an ozone alert. I would have to try and stay inside as much as I could.

My quick start was frustrated because I immediately ran into a monster traffic jam on Route 123. All the people in these new housing developments are really clogging the streets. To make matters worse, I tried to scoot through a stoplight a little too late and got a ticket for running a red light. What a morning, and I'd only just started!

My first errand was to drop off an overdue book at the library, and then I was on to the farmers' market by the K-Mart in Burke. The ozone didn't seem too bad, so I played a quick nine holes of golf at Burke Lake Park and by then, it was lunchtime. One of my students served me a couple gorditas at the Taco Bell.

Later that afternoon, I decided it was time to stop my daughter's whining and go pick up the cat she wanted to adopt from the shelter. She was one happy kid when she got home from her swimming lesson.

It rained in the late afternoon and then got much cooler. Perfect for the concert at Lake Accotink, and the end of a full day.

Government Contact Points (You can probably add others!)

- shower (Clean Water Act, Fairfax County Water Authority)
- sausage, eggs, coffee (FDA, tariffs on imports)
- Channel 16 ozone alert (National Weather Service, County-run cable channel, County Health Department)
- Route 123 (VDOT, County Department of Transportation)
- new housing developments (County planning and zoning issues, State highways)
- ticket (County police force, state and local traffic laws)
- library (Fairfax County has 19 libraries—the most of any County in the state)
- farmers' market (Fairfax County has 9 seasonal farmers' markets)
- Burke Lake Park (Fairfax County has more than 350 parks)
- Taco Bell (federal minimum wage, FDA, County health inspections)
- animal shelter (run by the County)
- swimming lesson (Fairfax County runs a variety of summer camps and programs)
- concert (offered during the summer at several County locations)