



March 2009 : Issue 4

## John W. Foust Dranesville District Supervisor

1437 Balls Hill Road • McLean, VA 22101  
Tel. 703-356-0551, TTY 711 • Fax 703-821-4275  
Email: [dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
Web Address: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/)



# Dranesville Dispatch

Dear Dranesville Residents,

Welcome to this edition of the Dranesville Dispatch!

This issue includes an update on some of the projects that are on-going in and around Dranesville. Of particular interest are the commitments we recently received from VDOT to construct soundwalls along the length of the HOT Lanes project in Dranesville and to re-plant a portion of the many acres that have been clear cut for construction of the project. We are grateful to State Delegates Margi Vanderhye and Jim Scott for their assistance on these and many other issues we deal with in this office.

Much of my time over the past several months has been spent dealing with County budget issues. This issue of the Dispatch contains information about the budget including articles on the County Executive’s proposed budget, opportunities for public input on the budget, the appeal process for property tax assessments, and how older adults and disabled residents who meet income and asset eligibility requirements can obtain property tax relief. Since last summer, the Board of Supervisors has been meeting with the School Board and each of the Departments and agencies of County Government to review their budgets and to prepare for the challenges of the coming fiscal year. In addition, I have appointed a task force of citizens to advise me on budget issues and have held, and will continue to hold, numerous public meetings to discuss the budget and the budget priorities of my constituents. The budget for fiscal year 2010 will be adopted on April 27. Between now and then, the Board of Supervisors will determine what revisions will be made to the County Executive’s advertised budget. I look forward to your input as we work through this difficult process.

The current economic crisis has created challenges for many of us in our personal lives. This is also true for local government, non-profits and faith-based organizations that provide vital services to the most vulnerable members of our community. Unfortunately, as the requests they receive for basic assistance increase dramatically, the resources available to provide that assistance are decreasing. They are being overwhelmed by requests for assistance. Fortunately, we have people like Janie Strauss, our Dranesville District School Board representative, who have joined together to organize “Fairfax Cares” to gather support within the community for our local non-profits and faith-based groups. On the last page of this issue of the Dispatch, you can read about Fairfax Cares and how, if you choose to do so, you can support their efforts.

I hope you will find this issue of the Dispatch to be helpful to you. As always, I hope you will not hesitate to contact me and my staff if you have questions or concerns or if we can be of assistance. It is a pleasure and an honor to serve as Dranesville Supervisor. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and for the input and assistance you continue to provide to me and my staff.

Best wishes,

John W. Foust

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# Calendar

## March

- 19 Fairfax County FY2010 Budget Town Hall - Great Falls Grange 7 p.m.
- 24 Fairfax County FY2010 Budget Town Hall - McLean Community Center 7 p.m.
- 25 Fairfax County FY2010 Budget Town Hall - Herndon Town Council Chambers 7 p.m.
- 30 Fairfax County FY2010 Budget Public Hearing at Government Center 7 p.m.
- 31 Fairfax County FY2010 Budget Public Hearing at Government Center 3 p.m. (Schools will present at 7 p.m.)

## April

- 1 Fairfax County FY2010 Budget Public Hearing at Government Center - 3:00 pm
- 2 Fairfax County FY2010 Budget Public Hearing at Government Center - 3:00 pm
- 27 Board of Supervisors adopt final Fairfax County FY2010 budget.

## May

- 16 McLean Day at Lewinsville Park
- 28-31 29th Annual Herndon Festival at Historic Downtown Herndon

Do you know someone who would like to receive the *Dranesville Dispatch*?

Email us contact information at [dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
or  
visit us online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville).

### Attention Homeowner Associations:

If you are interested in having Supervisor Foust attend your Homeowner Association or Civic Organization meeting, please contact the Supervisor's scheduler, Dianne Peikin, at 703-356-0551.

Please provide us with the latest contact information for your Association Officers so that we may keep you better informed of events in Dranesville that may impact you and your neighborhood. Call (703) 356-0551 or email [Julie.Ide@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Julie.Ide@fairfaxcounty.gov) with your latest information.

<b>Wes Callender</b>	Chief of Staff, Great Falls, Public Safety
<b>Jennifer Boysko</b>	Herndon Office, Schools, Human Services
<b>Jane Edmondson</b>	McLean Revitalization, Housing, Transportation
<b>Joe Gibson</b>	Land Use, Zoning Enforcement, Tysons Corner
<b>Julie Ide</b>	Traffic, Trails, Communications
<b>Cheryl Patten</b>	Environment, Parks, HOT Lanes, Stormwater
<b>Dianne Peikin</b>	Office Manager, Schedule, Boards & Commissions

### Who's Who at Dranesville District Offices

## Herndon Office

Our office in the Town of Herndon is dedicated to serving constituents in the western-most part of Dranesville. Staff Aide, **Jennifer Boysko**, is available specifically to assist Herndon area constituents.

**Office Hours:** M-W-Th-F: 9 am to 12 pm  
Tuesday: 12 pm to 3 pm  
Or by appointment

**Email:** [Jennifer.Boysko@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Boysko@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**Phone:** 703-471-5076

**Address:** Old Town Hall  
730 Elden St.  
Herndon, VA 20170

**Fax:** 703-437-3210

## Dranesville Project Updates

There are many on-going projects in and near the Dranesville District that will have an impact on the residents of Dranesville. Presented below is a brief update on some of those projects. For more information on these or other projects, contact the Dranesville District Supervisor's office at 703-356-0551, TTY 771 or email at [Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov). In addition, as noted below, some of these projects have their own website for information.

**HOT Lanes.** Construction activities on this project are accelerating. Over the past year, working with Delegate Margi Vanderhuyse and Delegate Jim Scott, Supervisor Foust and his staff have held many meetings and discussions with state officials and impacted communities along the Beltway about the need for expanded soundwall coverage to protect established neighborhoods in McLean. Supervisor Foust is pleased that VDOT recently committed to constructing soundwalls for almost the entire length of the project. In Dranesville, this means there will be soundwalls from Lewinsville Road to Georgetown Pike. Significant tree clearing has already occurred for this project and additional clearing will continue through the end of April. The tree loss caused by this project has been a major concern and the subject of much discussion with VDOT. To address our concerns, VDOT recently announced that it will hire a landscape architect to develop landscaping plans in coordination with adjacent communities. As part of the project, VDOT has committed to re-planting at least a portion of the many acres that have been clear cut to make room for construction of the project. Unfortunately, traffic impacts are inevitable from this major construction project, including closing a lane in each direction on Route 123 at the Beltway for extended periods. Supervisor Foust and his staff meet regularly with VDOT to plan traffic mitigation measures to deal with the impact of the traffic changes. The project is currently projected to complete in 2013. Additional information about the Hot Lanes project is available at [www.virginiahotlanes.com](http://www.virginiahotlanes.com). Residents can sign up for email alerts and stay informed about this project, including lane closures and traffic advisories, by going to [www.vamegaprojects.com](http://www.vamegaprojects.com). Traffic conditions at specific intersections can be found at [www.51northernvirginia.org](http://www.51northernvirginia.org).

**Dulles Rail.** For at least two years, supporters of a tunnel through Tysons Corner were told that there was insufficient time to evaluate a tunnel option because any delay would jeopardize approval of the federal government's portion of the financing for the project. The federal government's Full Funding Grant Agreement was recently signed. This means that a major funding hurdle for Phase 1 of the Dulles Rail project (from West Falls Church to Wiehle Avenue) has been resolved. Unfortunately, it also means that an elevated rail through Tysons Corner, rather than a tunnel, is likely. The current schedule for the project anticipates that construction will be complete and passenger service will begin in November 2013. In the interim, relocation of utilities and construction of the elevated portion of the rail along Route 7 and Route 123 through Tysons will have a significant impact on traffic. As with the HOT Lanes project, Supervisor Foust and his staff are working with VDOT and the project team to mitigate those impacts. Additional information about the Dulles Rail project, including regularly issued traffic advisories, is available at [www.dullesmetro.com](http://www.dullesmetro.com).

**Dolley Madison Library Expansion and Renovation.** The plans to renovate and expand this library are moving forward. Initially, plans for the project raised many environmental concerns, especially regarding tree preservation and stormwater management. Following much public input and a community meeting held in September 2008, a revised concept was adopted to address those environmental concerns. County staff will present the revised plans to the MCA's Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee. Following the MCA's review, there will be a **public information meeting held on April 13 at 7:30 pm at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean**. Then the revised plans will be presented at a public hearing before the county's Planning Commission on May 6, 2009. Assuming all goes well with the plan reviews, the project should be completed in the 2nd quarter of 2011.

**Herndon Fire Station.** Fairfax County is committed to building a new fire station to provide fire and rescue service in the Town of Herndon and surrounding communities. The county is currently searching for an appropriate site for the new station. One location that is under consideration is owned by the town and is next to the town's police station. While funds are currently available for land acquisition and preliminary design, construction cannot be funded until the next public safety bond referendum for this and other projects is approved by the voters. In the interim, Supervisor Foust is working with county staff to ensure that this important project continues to move forward.

**Great Falls Fire Station.** Approvals have been obtained and final design of the new fire station is moving forward. Over the next several months, bids will be obtained and a contractor will be selected. It is currently anticipated that construction will begin in late summer of this year. Assuming start of construction by fall of 2009, it is anticipated that the construction will be complete by the spring of 2011 and that the facility will be open by summer of 2011. During construction, the Fire and Rescue Department will operate out of temporary facilities. Staff believes they can operate the temporary facilities on the fire station's existing property. An unfortunate consequence of the construction of the new fire station is that the cut-through across the fire station property that the community used for many years will be closed. To mitigate the impact of this closure, Supervisor Foust obtained funding for a new right turn lane from Walker Road on to Georgetown Pike. The turn lane project is moving forward with construction currently expected to complete in the summer of 2010.

**McLean Central Park.** Supervisor Foust has worked with the Park Authority to implement much needed and long overdue improvements to the trails in McLean Central Park. In addition to the trails, improvements in the park will include new lighting fixtures between the library and Route 123 and a major streambed restoration project.

**Traffic Lights on Georgetown Pike.** Supervisor Foust and State Delegate Margi Vanderhye have worked closely with the community and the Virginia Department of Transportation to address critical safety and traffic movement issues at the intersections of Georgetown Pike and River Bend Road and Georgetown Pike and Seneca Road. VDOT has been very cooperative and creative in finding funding to add traffic signals at these intersections. Although we are optimistic that it may happen sooner, VDOT has assured us that the signals will be in place no later than the start of school in September 2009.

**Route 123 & Great Falls Street/Lewinsville Road/Balls Hill Road Intersection Improvements.** Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) recently acquired funding and the go-ahead to begin work on pedestrian improvements at this intersection as early as this summer. Changes will include the installation of pedestrian signals and extending the sidewalks along Lewinsville Road near Balls Hill Road.

# Proposed Amendments to the County's Comprehensive Plan

Every four years, Fairfax County reviews the Comprehensive Plan for each area of the County. This year, the Dranesville District is included in the review. Sixteen nominations for revisions to the Plan were received and reviewed by the Dranesville citizen task force created by Supervisor Foust. Supervisor Foust appointed John Ulfelder of Great Falls to chair the Task Force and 13 residents from McLean, Great Falls, Herndon, and the Hunter Mill Road area of Dranesville to serve on the Task Force. Since November, the Task Force has met twice monthly to receive comments from the nominators of the proposed revisions and from the community. The status of the nominations is discussed below. Additional information about these nominations can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/apr](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/apr).

**McLean:** The owners of the Vincent Hall retirement community and the McLean Professional Park withdrew their nominations to change the Comprehensive Plan for McLean from further consideration by the Task Force.

Vincent Hall had proposed a substantial expansion of the number of the residential units at the retirement community to accommodate its plans for long-term growth, but withdrew its nomination because its current allowance of total residences is sufficient to accommodate its near-term plans for expansion. Vincent Hall will submit an application for an Amendment to its Special Exception for approval of its proposed location of 100 new residential units, to be added in two phases. This application will be subject to hearings and review by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

McLean Professional Park withdrew its nomination to permit retail stores in its four buildings nearest to Chain Bridge Road after objections by the McLean Citizens Association, the McLean Planning Committee, adjacent homeowners associations and County staff, and after the Task Force had considered and voted against recommending the nomination.

**Great Falls:** A nomination to permit a senior citizens facility on a parcel with a large Resource Protection Area and located on Route 7 in Great Falls was withdrawn. The Task Force considered the County staff report that did not support the nomination and the Task Force voted against recommending the change in land use on this site. The Task Force recommended five nominations arising out of the Great Falls Citizens Association 2020 Vision effort: to encourage more trails and other uses of porous materials in Great Falls; to underground utilities along Georgetown Pike when land use changes were requested through rezoning or Special Exception; to encourage set backs for properties along Georgetown Pike to preserve and enhance the scenic and historic nature of the Pike; and to explore for a location in Great Falls for a civic center, including determining the functions of the center. These nominations will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review and public hearings.

**Hunter Mill Road:** Nominations were submitted to increase the density on the large parcels along Hunter Mill Road adjacent to the Dulles Access Road. The neighboring community voiced objections, the County staff report did not favor the proposal, and the Task Force voted unanimously to recommend against the proposed changes in the Comprehensive Plan. This nomination, together with the Task Force recommendation and the staff report, will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for public hearings and its consideration.

**Herndon Area:** Three of the nominations include land located close to the Town of Herndon at the western most part of the Dranesville district, north of the Dulles Toll Road at the boundary of Fairfax County and Loudoun County. Combined, the three applications cover 47.48 acres and, if approved as submitted, would allow for 1,800 multifamily residential units, almost 2 million square feet of office, 150,000 square feet of hotel, almost 175,000 square feet of retail, and over 38,000 square feet of institutional use space. In addition, there is a zoning application pending in Loudoun County for the Dulles World Center project which is located near the area covered by the three Fairfax County applications and there is a separate zoning application located in the Hunter Mill District just south of the Toll Road.

In reviewing these applications, Fairfax County's planning staff identified several critical issues including the need for interjurisdictional coordination between Loudoun, Herndon and Fairfax, planning for the Metro Rail station that will be located in the vicinity of these properties, the need to study transportation impacts that would be created by the proposed developments, numerous environmental issues associated with the proposed projects, and issues concerning other public facilities and services that would be required to serve the projects including police, fire and rescue and schools.

Staff determined that additional study was required to allow further evaluation of transportation issues and to allow further coordination among the neighboring jurisdictions and recommended to the Task Force that it vote to defer consideration of the proposed Plan amendments. The Task Force concurred with staff and deferred making a recommendation on the proposals. The proposals will ultimately be considered by the Dranesville Task Force but first planning staffs from the town, both counties and the Airport Authority will analyze the proposals and the issues they raise.

## 2010 Budget Proposed by County Executive Tony Griffin

County Executive Tony Griffin presented his proposed Fiscal Year 2010 Budget (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010) to the Board of Supervisors on February 23, 2009. "As proposed, the FY 2010 budget focuses on the County's core services and programs. It preserves those services fundamental to our mission – the protection and enrichment of the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County," stated Griffin.

The national economy is experiencing a significant and extended downturn. Evidence of this crisis is seen in all aspects of Fairfax County's economy. "In response to the situation and to address the projected \$650 million deficit, I focused on three strategies. (1) Eliminate non-contractual or legally obligated growth in the budget which would have provided for inflationary increases, salary adjustments and increasing workloads; (2) Reduce, reengineer, reorganize, redesign and eliminate various County lines of business; and (3) Include revenue enhancements to keep the same relative tax burden on the residential homeowner and increase user fees to recover an equitable return of County costs to users of various services. I believe these proposed strategies provide a balanced approach to our budget challenges," stated Griffin.

Griffin added, "This balanced approach was validated time and again during our Community Dialogues and Employee Brown-bags on the budget this fall. All areas of the County's budget will be affected. Schools, public safety and human services comprise approximately 75 percent of the budget. All of these areas will be significantly impacted by my FY 2010 recommendation since it would not be possible to balance the budget without adjustments to these areas while maintaining an acceptable and sustainable level of services. Throughout the Community Dialogue sessions, County residents endorsed the principles of maintaining our current quality of life in Fairfax County. They understood that programmatic reductions would be necessary and called upon us to protect the vulnerable constituencies in our community. Understandably, there were differing perspectives and competing priorities and demands voiced during the public process, but the consensus supported County leaders making decisions based on compassion, equity and fiscal accountability."

The Board of Supervisors will not adopt the FY 2010 Budget until April 27. In the interim, the Supervisors will be analyzing the County Executive's Advertised Budget and obtaining substantial input from the community. Although the Adopted Budget is likely to include numerous changes, the Advertised Budget is the starting point for discussion. Key aspects of the Advertised Budget are summarized below.

The County Executive proposed a General Fund budget of \$3,313,476,563 for Fiscal Year 2010, a decrease of 3.70 percent from the FY 2009 Revised Budget Plan. The proposed budget increases the Real Estate Tax rate to \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed value.

The recommended transfer to the Public School Operating Fund is \$1,626,600,722, which is the same level as Fiscal Year 2009. The transfer request approved by the Fairfax County School Board on Feb. 7, 2009, is \$1,683,372,525, an increase of \$56.8 million, or 3.5 percent over the FY 2009 Adopted Budget Plan transfer.

The County Executive recommended an increase in the real estate tax rate that will hold average taxes paid by residential property owners relatively flat with their FY 2009 payment level. At the proposed real estate tax rate of \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed value, along with the newly proposed Stormwater Service District rate of \$0.015 per \$100 of assessed value, the taxes paid by the average residential taxpayer will be \$14 more than their FY 2009 tax bill.

The County Executive's proposed FY 2010 Budget includes expenditure reductions totaling \$106.4 million and eliminates 524 regular positions. In addition, it includes elimination of County employee compensation increases. Some of these reductions take advantage of cost saving strategies; however, many reduce or eliminate services residents use and enjoy. The reduction alternatives include modification in County service hours and service levels, staffing decreases and program eliminations. Funding reductions were made in virtually every County agency and both County residents and employees will be impacted by these actions.

All reduction proposals were reviewed and evaluated. These proposals were put forth by County agencies after extensive analysis and professional assessment. They represented creative and innovative approaches to make service delivery more efficient and sought to preserve core county services and those services that protect the health and welfare of County residents. It is important to note that the recommended spending reductions were not made equally across County departments and programs, recognizing that some services are fundamental to the County's core mission. The reductions include program eliminations, efficiencies and restructurings, facility closures, reduced service hours and levels, employee-related reductions and suggestions made by the public and employees.

The FY 2010 Budget proposal eliminates pay increases for employees to include pay for performance, merit increments and longevity step increases as well as the associated fringe benefit funding for a total savings of \$19.1 million.

The FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan recommends a series of revenue enhancements totaling \$12.6 million. These increased fees and charges are based on actual costs of service provision, are comparable to rates in neighboring jurisdictions, and are consistent with suggestions from County residents, employees and agencies on budget alternatives. The fee and charge increases are in addition to savings initiatives in these programs and will facilitate retaining of these important programs.

The public is encouraged to share their thoughts on the budget through the online forum on the County's budget page and/or the telephone hotline, 703-324-9400. For further information on the FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan, contact the Department of Management and Budget at 703-324-2391, TTY 711, or access the budget online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/fy2010/>. The entire budget is also available on CD-ROM.

Reference copies of the FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan are available at all County libraries. A reference copy will also be available in the Office of the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

# Supervisor Foust to Conduct Three Town Hall Meetings on Budget

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust has scheduled three town hall meetings in March to give the public an opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 Budget for Fairfax County. County Management and Budget staff will be present to make a summary presentation of the budget and answer questions. The three sessions are:

**Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 pm**

**Great Falls Grange**

9818 Georgetown Pike

Great Falls, VA 22066

**Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 pm**

**McLean Community Center**

1234 Ingleside Avenue

McLean, VA 22101

**Wednesday, March 25 at 7:30 pm**

**Herndon Town Council Chambers**

765 Lynn Street

Herndon, VA 20170

County Executive Anthony H. Griffin presented his proposed FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan to the Board of Supervisors on February 23, 2009. **Public Hearings will be held in the Board Auditorium at the Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax VA) on March 30, March 31, April 1 and April 2. The Board of Supervisors will adopt a final budget on April 27.**

**For more information on these public meetings contact Wes Callender in Supervisor Foust's Dranesville District office at 703-356-0551, TTY 711 or email [Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov).**

## Tax Assessment and Appeal Application Process

The Real Estate Division of the Department of Tax Administration (DTA) is required by law to assess each parcel of real estate in Fairfax County at fair market value as of January 1.

There are approximately 340,000 residential properties in Fairfax County. The DTA does a very admirable job of assessing these properties and, on a relative basis, very few assessments are challenged by individual property owners. However, given the large number of assessments, it is almost inevitable that some property owners will have questions about their assessments and that some assessments should be revised.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your assessment, the DTA recommends that you speak with a DTA staff appraiser before filing an appeal. To discuss your assessment, please contact the Real Estate Division at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta) or call 703-222-8234, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily. The following schedule applies in the event a property owner decides to appeal an assessment:

Administrative Appeals:

Administrative appeals that may be filed are requested by **April 3, 2009**

DTA, 12000 Government Center Parkway

Suite 357, Fairfax, VA 22035 703-222-8234 (TTY 703-222-7594)

Home: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta)

Board of Equalization (BOE):

Statutory deadline is **June 1st** to apply

BOE, 12000 Government Center Parkway

Suite 331, Fairfax, VA 22035 703-324-4891

Home: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boe](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boe)

# Announcements

## CENSUS BUREAU SEEKING APPLICANTS TO FILL THOUSANDS OF GOOD-PAYING JOBS IN AREA

The Charlotte Regional Census Center is seeking qualified applicants to fill jobs in preparation for the upcoming 2010 United States Census located in Virginia. Positions include address listers, office clerks, recruiting assistants, crew leaders and field operations supervisors. These census employees will help develop an address list in spring 2009. The confidential address list will be used to deliver census questionnaires in 2010. The jobs are temporary; some are full time and others part-time. These jobs offer attractive pay, allow flexibility and permit people to work in their communities, for their communities.

**Those interested in applying for census positions should go to [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov) for job descriptions, qualifications and applications. Potential applicants can also call toll-free 1-866-861-2010.**

## DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION DELAYED UNTIL JUNE 12

The national changeover to digital television (DTV) signals has been delayed until June 12, 2009.

**There are three options to prevent your analog TVs from going dark on June 12:**

1. Buy a converter box for your analog TV, with or without the government issued \$40 coupon.
2. Buy a new TV that receives digital signals.
3. Subscribe to a paid cable or satellite TV service.



Even though the DTV transition deadline has been pushed back, local broadcast stations may complete the transition before June 12. Broadcast stations are required to notify their viewers before shutting off their analog channels. There also has been some talk about a possible shortage of converter boxes. If you have not yet applied for your converter box coupons and/or prepared your analog TVs for the transition, you should do so now. Elderly and disabled constituents who have received cable boxes and need assistance with set up and operation can call 703-324-7118.

**For more information on the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program or to apply for coupons, go to [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov), or call 1-888-388-2009. For general information about the DTV transition, go to [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov).**

**The Fairfax County Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection DTV Answer Line for county residents is 703-324-5900.**

## VOLUNTEER AND HELP SAVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN

Are you interested in saving the lives of children? Become a volunteer with the Child Passenger Safety Team.

Child passenger safety is a high priority in Fairfax County. In 2008, there were 3,352 inspections. If you have some spare time and an interest in working together with members of the public safety community to fill an important need the Child Passenger Safety Team needs your help.

Volunteers attend a mandatory training session at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy and learn all they need to know to inspect children's safety seats, booster seats, belts and harnesses. They work side-by-side with sworn officers and traffic safety experts to become certified in child passenger safety seat inspection.



According to Child Safety Seat Coordinator, Master Police Officer Beth Benham, there is a critical need for volunteers. "We established this new program in hopes that we'll be better able to meet the needs of our residents," she said. "Child safety devices can be confusing, and may take some time and attention for parents and care-givers; our hope is that our new volunteers will empower others to pay close attention to these devices, and their requirements to meet the needs of their growing families."

**To learn more, contact Child Safety Seat Coordinator MPO Beth Benham at 703-280-0567 or Volunteers in Police Services (VIPs) coordinator Donna Spiewak at 703-280-0524 or [donna.spiewak@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:donna.spiewak@fairfaxcounty.gov).**

## Changes at the Board of Supervisors

Last November, then Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Gerry Connolly was elected to represent Virginia's 11th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. In a special election held in February, Sharon Bulova, the former Braddock District Supervisor, was elected to take Mr. Connolly's place as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. When Ms. Bulova became Board Chairman, a vacancy was created for the Braddock District Supervisor's seat. On March 10, John Cook, an attorney and community activist, was elected Braddock District Supervisor in another special election. Supervisor Cook was sworn in on March 17. Once again, the Chairmanship and all nine District Supervisor positions are filled.

# McLean Area High School Students Are Invited to Compete for James C. Macdonald Fine Arts Scholarship

*Application Deadline is Tuesday, March 31*

High school students who want to further their interests in the fine arts are invited to enter the 2009 James C. Macdonald Arts Scholarship Competition. Sponsored by the Alden Theatre and the McLean Community Center, the scholarship competition encourages artistic achievement and promotes study in the arts by high school students who reside in or attend school in Dranesville Small Tax District 1-A. The deadline for applying for this year's competition is Tuesday, March 31.

The competition is open to students, grades 9-12, who are enrolled in and attending a local high school on a full-time basis. A \$1,200 scholarship prize will be given to first-place winners in each of the following categories: Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts. Second-place winners in all four categories will receive \$800 and third-place winners each receive \$400. All finalists will be required to show proof of age and residence or school affiliation before they can proceed to the final stage of competition. Finalists must be present and prepared to perform at the final competition in Alden Theatre at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, to be eligible to receive an award.

**Application forms are available online and at the reception desk of the McLean Community Center. For more information, or for an application form, call the Center at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711, or visit: [www.mcleancenter.org/alden](http://www.mcleancenter.org/alden).**

## Dranesville News



### Update On McLean Revitalization Efforts

Three public forums sponsored last spring by Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust along with the McLean Planning Committee (MPC) and the Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment (OCRR) generated a great deal of excitement about the possibility of redeveloping the portion of downtown McLean bordered by Old Dominion Drive, Chain Bridge Road, Beverly Road and Ingleside.

Following those Public Forums, McLean Properties, a group that represents several landowners in the area, opened an office on Redmond Avenue next to the Capri Restaurant. Currently, Robert Charles Lesser & Co., a nationally-renowned land use programming firm, is working for McLean Properties and is in the process of evaluating the demographics of the community, examining unmet needs, and determining needs for residential, civic, office and retail space. The

firm has been given the results of the public forums and intends to prepare a market analysis by the end of the first quarter of 2009.

McLean Properties will give the report to a master planning firm that will prepare suggestions for a layout of the area with suggested architectural concepts, land uses for each property, parking and tenant mix. McLean Properties will begin the process of selecting the master planning firm in the first quarter of 2009.

The MPC, the OCRR and Supervisor Foust are committed to ensuring that any proposal for redevelopment of this portion of downtown McLean is fully vetted by the community and consistent with the community's vision. We believe McLean Properties shares that commitment. Given the complexity of the project, it will take time before the landowners will be in a position to present suggestions to the community.

**For more information please contact Jane Edmondson in Supervisor Foust's office at 703-356-0551, TTY 711 or by email at [dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov).**

# Bus Shelters Installed in Downtown McLean

Thanks to the efforts of the McLean Revitalization Corporation (MRC), people now have three new bus shelters in downtown McLean. The shelters are located in front of the Old Firehouse and the Salona Village Shopping Center on Chain Bridge Road and at the intersection of Westmoreland and Chain Bridge Road.

A grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development to MRC enabled four shelters to be purchased. The fourth shelter will be placed at a heavily used location that currently does not have a shelter. The MRC is currently working with the landowner regarding its installation.

The MRC donated the shelters to Fairfax County. The County's Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division within the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services will maintain the shelters.

Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. and Seaman Homes donated construction services for the installation of the three shelters.

MRC board members Jim Peoples and Russ Rosenberger were the project managers for the bus shelter project. The design of the shelters is now part of the County's Design Standards for the McLean Community Business Center. The shelters have changeable end panel arches to allow local art work to be displayed. This is a part of the MRC's ongoing efforts to have McLean be known as an arts-orientated community. Groups interested in using the arches for civic art projects should contact the Supervisor's office.

Supervisor John W. Foust stated: "Installation of bus shelters is one component of the revitalization efforts of downtown McLean. I greatly appreciate all the hard work that the many County employees and the MRC devoted to this endeavor as well as the contribution from Case Design/Remodeling and Seaman Homes."

The McLean Revitalization Corporation is a community organization of McLean businesses and residents authorized to promote and manage revitalization of the McLean Central Business Center. The board is made up of representatives from the McLean Citizens Association, surrounding citizens associations, the McLean Chamber of Commerce and the McLean Commercial Landowners Association. The president of the MRC is Bob Nagle.

**For more information please contact Jane Edmondson in Supervisor Foust's office at 703-356-0551, TTY 711 or by email at [dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov).**

## Clemyjontri Carousel Hours Increased Weekday Fees Apply

If you love the carousel at Clemyjontri Park we have great news. In response to growing demand, the Fairfax County Park Authority will provide five extra weekends of expanded carousel operations at the popular, fully accessible playground located at 6317 Georgetown Pike in McLean, VA.

Now children can visit each of the four thematic play areas, enjoy a picnic and also ride the carousel which will have a longer operating season and will stay open one hour later on weekends. The American Classic Carousel is the centerpiece of this very special park. Chariots, a spinning tea cup and 14 prancing steeds await only the imagination of children. The carousel is recessed to ground level so that it is accessible for wheelchairs, allowing for easy transfers. The chariot is designed to allow for transfer to a seated position or to remain seated in the wheelchair.

**The 2009 carousel schedule will run as follows:**

- **April 4 until May 24 from 9:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. -- Weekends Only**
- **May 25 through September 7 from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Weekdays; 9:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Weekends.**
- **September 8 through November 22 from 9:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. -- Weekends Only**

**The park is open 7 a.m. until dusk daily. Both weekend and weekday fees for the carousel are now \$1.50 per ride.**

Overflow parking is available at Langley Fork Park located just 1/8 mile from the park at 6250 Georgetown Pike. Due to safety concerns, park patrons are asked not to park along Georgetown Pike. The carousel does not operate in inclement or hazardous weather. For more information call the Clemyjontri Park Office at 703-388-2807.

## Helpful Information

### Free Home Repair Available to Qualified Homeowners



The Rebuilding Together program of the Robert Pierre Johnson Housing Development Corporation (RPJ Housing) is providing home repairs free of charge with priority given to those low-income households with older adults, persons with disabilities or families with children. By bringing together resources from businesses, congregations, and dedicated community members, Rebuilding Together is able to address pressing repair needs of those homeowners who, because of financial constraints, age and physical limitations are unable to make or pay for repairs themselves. The goal of the program is to keep people living in warmth, safety and independence, while helping to build better communities.

In order to qualify a candidate must own and live in the home being repaired, intend to remain in the home for more than two years and their household income must meet HUD "Low-Income" Guidelines. For example, the total gross household income for one person must not exceed \$43,050, for two people \$49,200, for three people \$55,530.

RPJ Housing has operated its Rebuilding Together program for more than 20 years. RPJ Housing was founded by the National Capital Presbytery in 1978, and is a non-profit organization whose mission is to develop and preserve affordable housing for limited income individuals and families and to strengthen communities in the Washington Metropolitan area. Rebuilding Together is a partnership between the sponsor, the recipient and RPJ Housing. The most important element of this partnership is the commitment of time and resources from sponsors and volunteers. Organizations wishing to "sponsor" a home donate up to \$2,500 and designate a team captain who is knowledgeable and skillful in the home improvement field. In return, RPJ Housing provides a project that matches the skills and size of each group as well as training and technical assistance.

**For more information or if you are interested in applying for free home repairs or sponsoring a home to be repaired, please call 703-528-5606 Extension 16 or visit <http://rpjhousing.org/rt.html>.**

### New Online Ride-matching System Will Meet Record Demand for Carpooling, Commute Options

Commuter Connections has launched a new online ride-matching website for commuters interested in forming carpools and vanpools. The new launch marks the first-time commuters have direct access to people that live and work near them and who want to join carpools and vanpools.

The purpose of opening access to the Web-based service is to further help residents of Maryland, D.C., and Virginia, cope with traffic congestion and fluctuating gas prices by supplying them with transportation alternatives to solo driving.

The system allows individuals to find and contact carpool matches among a regional database, and map a preferred route. The innovative system is built on Google Maps API (Application Programming Interface) and is among the most sophisticated, simple to use in North America.



**To access the Online ride-matching System visit the Commuter Connections website at <http://mwcog-boards.americaneagle.com/cgi-bin/ubb/Ultimate.cgi?action=intro>.**

### Business Counseling Services Offered at Board of Supervisors' Offices

A Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) representative continues to be in Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust's office once a month to offer free on-site, one-on-one counseling to anyone who wants to start a business in Fairfax County, expand an existing business in the county, or learn about other business services. These sessions are scheduled for the third Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m.

FCEDA assistance focuses on a wide array of business functions and questions: from starting a business in Fairfax County to securing office space, or securing capital to help a company grow. By offering individual counseling in the community, the FCEDA's specialized advisory service reaches more of the community's entrepreneurs and professionals.

**More information on this service is available at the FCEDA Web site [http://www.fairfaxcountyeda.org/services\\_and\\_resources.htm](http://www.fairfaxcountyeda.org/services_and_resources.htm) or contact Katalin Z. Vaughan of the FCEDA at 703-790-0600 or by email at [kvaughan@fceda.org](mailto:kvaughan@fceda.org).**



## Activities

### McLean Orchestra and McLean Youth Orchestra *Performances by Local Musicians*

The McLean Orchestra and the McLean Youth Orchestra provide professional-level orchestral concerts in an easily accessible location and at reasonable cost to area residents.

#### **McLean Orchestra calls their current season "A Season of Discovery"**

Great Awakenings (Saturday, March 14, 2009)

A Metamorphosis (Sunday, April 5, 2009)

An Intimate Affair (Saturday, May 30, 2009)

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: Oakcrest School

850 Balls Hill Road

McLean, VA 22101

Purchase tickets: <http://mclean-orchestra.org/tickets.htm>



#### **McLean Youth Orchestra**

Comprised of young musicians between the ages of 12 and 18 will hold a Mother's Day Concert:

Sunday, May 10, 2009 at 3:00 pm

Location: Oakcrest School

850 Balls Hill Road

McLean, VA 22101

Adult Admission \$ 5.00

Senior/Student \$2.50

Family Ticket \$15.00

Tickets are available at the door.

### No Toll for this Bridge

Each week, bridge games are open to McLean Community Center district residents and their guests. Room location and availability are subject to change without notification. Call to check with center staff each week before coming to participate. Senior bridge meets Mondays. Participants should arrive by 9:45 a.m. to be included in the rotation for games, which begin promptly at 10 a.m. Party bridge meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Community bridge meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org) for more information.

McLean Community Center

1234 Ingleside Ave.

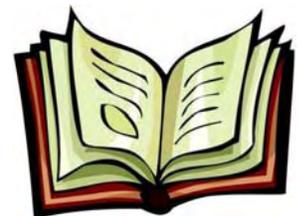
McLean

703-790-0123



### Library Appreciation Day

The Fairfax County Public Library has declared April 18 "Library Appreciation Day." Residents are asked to stop by their nearest library branch to express their appreciation for library services and staff. There will be a special area at each branch where library users can leave their comments. They can also be posted on a special section on the library's Web site. Library users can post comments on their favorite services, the value of the library in the community and any other thoughts. Customers can also post their comments on the library's Web site, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).



# Books and Reading *Upcoming Literary Events in and Around Dranesville*

## EVENTS FOR READERS

**Thursday, April 16, 11 a.m.**

Local children's author Susan Crites will read *I Love You More Than Rainbows* at three library branches. Free; registration required; register online or call specific branch. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon, 703-437-8855.

**Thursday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.**

Eugene Robinson, a *Washington Post* nationally syndicated columnist and MSNBC political analyst will present "Today's News: Who's Up, Who's Down and What's Really Going On?" at the Alden Theatre of the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue. Registration is not required; tickets will be distributed beginning at 7 p.m. on April 16; limit of four tickets per person, first come, first served. For more information call 703-324-8428.

**Sunday, April 19, 2 p.m.**

Award-winning cookbook author Kay Karim at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, 703-790-8088. Free; registration required; register online or call.

**Wednesday, April 22, 7 p.m.**

Author Hall Fleming discusses *The Bride's Fair* at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, 703-757-8560. Free; registration online or call.

## USED BOOK SALES

**Saturday, April 4. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Friends' book sale. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, 703-790-8088.

**April 17- April 18. Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Book sale. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, 703-757-8560.

**April 18-April 19. Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Semi-annual book sale. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, 703-938-0405.

**April 24-26. Friday 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Sunday Noon-5:30 p.m.**

Semi-annual book sale. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, 703-689-2700.



## Virginia Department of Transportation Plans for the Future

Recently, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) announced a comprehensive plan to address long-term funding reductions that will significantly change services the agency provides to Virginians, including planned reductions to rest areas, Safety Service Patrols, mowing/roadside maintenance, ferry services, and the consolidation of VDOT residency offices.

VDOT is committed to keeping residents informed about these proposed changes and is working to gather feedback on these proposed plans. VDOT wants to ensure that residents are aware of these efforts and how they fit into the context of VDOT's mission to plan, build, operate, and maintain a safe and efficient highway system. These service changes support the three-part Blueprint for the Future—a comprehensive forward-thinking plan to address a \$2.6 billion funding shortfall over the next six years.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board implemented the first part of the Blueprint — reductions in the number of new projects that will be built — when it adopted a revised Fiscal Years 2009-2014 Six-Year Improvement Program on February 13. The revised program cut \$2 billion in funding, delaying or eliminating 808 projects or project phases statewide.

The second part of the Blueprint involves VDOT staffing changes and organizational restructuring. VDOT announced that it will reduce 1,000 classified and 450 part-time staff in its construction development program, field operations and administrative functions, and will consolidate 15 residency offices and 36 equipment repair facilities around the commonwealth in the next 18 months.

The third part of the Blueprint focuses on reductions in VDOT programs and services. These include reducing motorist amenities and maintenance contracts for services not affecting driver safety. These proposals include:

**Reducing Rest Areas and Welcome Centers**  
**Reducing Ferry Services**  
**Reducing Safety Service Patrols**  
**Reducing Interstate Maintenance Services**  
**Reducing Vegetation Management**

Residents may learn more about and discuss this plan at a Public Meeting for the Northern Virginia district of VDOT. Meeting details:

**Wednesday April 1, 2009 at 6:00 pm**  
**Fairfax City Hall**  
**Room 111**  
**10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax, VA 22030**

Residents may also submit comments via e-mail to [vdotinfo@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:vdotinfo@vdot.virginia.gov) by April 15, 2009.

For more information about proposed service impacts or changes to VDOT operations, visit [http://www.virginiadot.org/news/blueprint\\_meetings.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/news/blueprint_meetings.asp).

## Anti-School Bullying Forum Set for March 26

Longfellow Middle School PTA and the Safe Community Coalition will be sponsoring a forum entitled "Bullying and Cyber Bullying in Our Schools." Event details:

**Thursday, March 26, at 7 p.m.  
McLean Community Center  
1234 Ingleside Avenue  
McLean, VA**

Statistics indicate 70 percent of eighth grade respondents in a 2008 Fairfax County Youth Survey experienced some form of bullying, and 28.7 percent were bullied to the point of injury or threat of injury. The speaker on March 26 will be Stefan Mascoll of the Fairfax County Office of Safe and Drug Free Youth. The forum follows action by the Virginia State Legislature last month adding "harassment and intimidation" to the definition of bullying, providing greater protection against "cyber-bullying," or bullying through text messaging or online.



## McLean Community Spring Garage Sale

**Saturday, April 4, 9 am to 1 pm (or until sold out, whichever comes first)**  
Business Bank Parking Garage  
Across from J. Gilbert's Restaurant,  
Ingleside Ave. and 1451 Dolley Madison Blvd. (Route 123)

**FREE ADMISSION.** Sale of used household and personal items only, no commercial dealers. Over 50 SELLERS! McLean Spring Community Garage Sale selling spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$40. No commercial vendors or flea market dealers will be allowed at this sale. Only residents selling used household items. Online seller registration is now open! Activity No. 2007.390. Cost \$40. To register as a seller visit <http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events/upcoming.asp> or visit the McLean Community Center at:

1234 Ingleside Ave.  
McLean, VA 22101  
phone: 703-790-0123

Deadline to apply is Thursday, April 2. This is a very popular community garage sale. Spaces go quickly, so please register early!

## County-Wide Conference on Substance Use and Violence Prevention "What Today's Youth Need You to Know"

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section and its Unified Prevention Coalition (UPC), in collaboration with Fairfax County agencies and organizations in Northern Virginia, are organizing the first county-wide substance use and violence prevention conference, "What Today's Youth Need You to Know." The conference, designed for Fairfax County residents and employees, will focus on educating adults, youth, and professional service providers on current trends recently reported in the 2008 Fairfax County Youth Survey, as well as issues pertinent to raising healthy families. The Conference will take place on

**Saturday, March 28, 2009**  
8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Oakton High School**  
2900 Sutton Rd.  
Vienna, VA 22181



The UPC 2009 prevention conference task force is already working with county agencies and organizations, many of whom plan to sponsor the conference and provide exhibits.

The Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services (CRS) has taken on a major role in this year's conference. Its annual regional Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) conference will be integrated into the 2009 Prevention Conference. YADAPP youth leaders and its regional partners--Manassas Parks and Recreation; and Loudoun County Parks, Recreation, and Community Services--will plan and implement four youth workshops, as well as the closing program, and have arranged for a youth-focused keynote speaker.

A wide variety of workshops will be offered for adults, youth, families and professional service providers. Translated language workshops also will be offered with translation services available. A continental breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks will be served. Continuing education units (CEUs) will be available for service providers who remain at the conference all day; the certificates will be handed out at the close of the conference.

Exhibitors from local county agencies, organizations and businesses will be available with valuable information and resources for everyone and some will also be involved with the conference organization and sponsorship. Youth attending the conference will have the opportunity to receive prizes at the end of the day. Check out the website at [www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org](http://www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org) and click on the conference logo for information. Registration is now open for attendees, exhibitors and sponsors! Youth attend for free, individual adults are \$10; families (2 adults) \$15. Requests for waiving fees in cases of hardship will be taken.

The just-released Fairfax County 2008 Youth Survey results prove we are making progress with our county-wide prevention efforts. Please join us to help continue educating our community on substance use and violence prevention safety issues. For information please contact Lisa Adler, prevention conference coordinator, at (571) 423-4270 or [Lisa.Adler@fcps.edu](mailto:Lisa.Adler@fcps.edu).

# 21st Annual Sugarland Run & Runnymede Park Clean Up Day

Saturday, March 28, 8am-12pm (Rain date: March 29)  
Herndon's 58-acre community nature park is located on Herndon Parkway  
between Elden Street and Dranesville Road.

Choose between stream clean-up or native plant garden assignments. Meet at the Hunter's Creek Clubhouse off Queen's Row Street. Bring work gloves and wear suitable clothing.

For more information contact the Town Forester at 703-435-6800 x 2014  
Groups: Please call to preregister and receive assignments.

Sponsored by: The Friends of Runnymede Park and the Town of Herndon Departments of Community Development and Parks and Recreation

## Center Seeks Tax District Residents' Ideas and Comments on Programs and Services

*Public Hearing on Programs is March 25, at 7:30 p.m.*

The McLean Community Center (MCC) Governing Board is holding a Public Hearing on Programs at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, at the Center. The board is asking residents to come to the meeting and share their thoughts on the Center's programs and services. The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Governing Board will follow the public hearing. All meetings of the board are open to the public. The Center is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue.

Residents of Small District 1A—Dranesville, the Center's tax district, are encouraged to attend the meeting to voice their opinions on current offerings at the Center and to make suggestions on how programs can be improved in the future. The hearing is the first step in planning for the FY 2011 budget cycle, which begins July 1, 2010. The Center is home to the Robert Ames Alden Theatre. The Old Firehouse Teen Center, a satellite program of MCC, is located at 1440 Chain Bridge Road.

**Residents who would like to speak at the hearing may call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to have their names placed on the speakers' list. They also may submit written comments by mail, fax (703-556-0547), E-mail (mail@mcleancenter.org) or in person. Residents who want to find out if they live within the Center's tax district or who want more information, may call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.**

## Let Us Entertain You: Free Outdoor Events at McLean Civic Place Green

Springtime brings free outdoor events to McLean at the Civic Place Green. Entertainment is presented by **The Palladium at McLean** and supported by the **McLean Revitalization Corporation**.

All events are held Saturdays at:

**Civic Place Green**  
1445 Laughlin Avenue  
McLean, VA 22101

April 18	Billy Triplett (children's music)	4-6	July 18	The Grandsons (mixed rock)	6-8
April 25	The Grandsons (mixed rock)	4-6	July 25	McLean Orchestra Kamerata Trio (classical)	6-8
May 2	Marshall Maley (jazz)	4-6	August 1	The Folsom Prisoners (country)	6-8
May 9	Jody Marshall (celtic/folk)	5-7	August 8	Woven Green (folk rock)	6-8
May 16	Michelle Renee Band (country)	5-7	August 15	Fairfax Saxophone Quartet	6-8
May 23	Project Natale (jazz trio)	5-7	August 22	Martinez & Guthrie (alt. rock)	6-8
May 30	Langley High School (orchestra)	5-7	August 29	Jody Marshall (celtic/folk)	6-8
June 6	Dulcie Taylor (folk/blues)	6-8	September 5	Barbara Martin Duo (jazz/blues)	5-7
June 13	The Seekers (soft rock)	6-8	September 12	No Better Off (alt. rock)	5-7
June 20	Batala (African/Brazilian percussion)	6-8	September 19	The Seekers (soft rock)	4-6
June 27	City of Fairfax Oberkramer (Bavarian)	6-8	September 26	The Rick Thompson Jazz Quartet (jazz)	4-6
July 4	None		October 3	Martinez & Guthrie (alt. rock)	4-6
July 11	No Better Off (alt.rock)	6-8			

### Invasive Plant Removal Day is May 2

The Fairfax County Park Authority's Invasive Management Area program will participate in the first-ever statewide Invasive Plant Removal Day at several locations on Saturday, May 2.

Invasive species are, generally, non-native species that cause ecological or economic harm. They share certain characteristics, such as being able to mature quickly, generate many offspring and can tolerate a wide range of habitats.

"Because of the characteristics that allow a species to successfully establish in new territory, invasive species make terrible neighbors," county officials said. "They out-compete native species for the same resources, eventually reducing the populations of native species."

There are activities planned throughout Northern Virginia, including Arlington, Falls Church, Reston and Alexandria. In Fairfax County, volunteers and Park Authority staff will target just one species: garlic mustard.

Garlic mustard is a biennial plant originally from Europe. It is relatively common in the Mid-Atlantic region, and has a negative effect on forest health by reducing the number of tree seedlings that can germinate.

Several sites will be participating in a garlic pull, including Bryn Mawr, Cub Run Stream Valley, Falstaff, McLean Hunt Estates, Pohick Stream Valley and Rocky Run Stream Valley. Typical workdays will run from 10 a.m. until noon.

**For information on volunteering, call Kathy Frederick at (703) 324-8681 or see the Park Authority Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks).**

Activities at the state level are being coordinated by the Virginia Native Plant Society and the Virginia Master Naturalists.



### Volunteers Needed for Potomac Watershed Cleanup March 17-April 14

#### *Litter Needs to Be Removed From Dozens of Locations in Fairfax County*

Volunteers and site captains are needed for the 19th annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup from Saturday, March 17, through Saturday, April 14. There are dozens of locations across Fairfax County's stream valleys and parks where litter needs to be removed. The cleanups will be held rain or shine.

To see a partial list of sites and their scheduled cleanup dates, visit [www.potomaccleanup.org/trash\\_initiative/rc\\_sites.html](http://www.potomaccleanup.org/trash_initiative/rc_sites.html). Volunteers also can register online to work at one of these locations.

**If you wish to become a site captain, volunteer at a site not listed online or prefer to sign up by phone, contact Dan Schwartz, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, at [dan.schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dan.schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov), or 703-324-1422, TTY 711.**

Site captains will get help in choosing and preparing a site, promoting the cleanup and finding volunteers. They also will be provided with all the necessary materials for the cleanup, including trash bags, gloves and sign-in sheets.

The Fairfax Watershed Network is partnering with the Alice Ferguson Foundation to coordinate cleanup activities in Fairfax County. The foundation started its cleanup campaign in 1989, and as result, more than 2.5 million pounds of trash have been removed from the Potomac watershed.

The network is comprised of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Fairfax County Park Authority, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, Reston Association, Clean Fairfax Council and many other groups and individuals.

Environmental protection is one of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' top priorities. Watershed protection is specifically addressed in the board's 20-year environmental agenda, which can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/eip](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/eip).

This agenda calls for the implementation of new watershed management plans and stream protection strategies. Additional information about watershed planning is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds).

# Adopt-A-Highway and Adopt-A-Spot: Two Great Ways to Help Clean up Fairfax County



## Adopt-A-Highway

Virginia Adopt-a-Highway (AAH) matches volunteers to designated sections of roadway in Virginia. Volunteers clean more than 13,000 miles of highways annually. That's about one-quarter of Virginia's state-maintained roads.

AAH volunteers agree to pick up litter four times a year for two years. In return, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provides trash bags, vests, important safety information, and highway signs that recognize your group. Research has shown that Adopt-a-Highway roadsides are less littered than those maintained by road crews. Volunteers provide the equivalent of roughly \$3 million a year in litter-control services to the state.

**If you are a member of a group interested in participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program you may contact the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for an application packet, or download a form at the Adopt-a-Highway page at the Virginia Department of Transportation website <http://virginiadot.org/programs/prog-aah-default.asp>, call (800) PRIDEVA [(800) 774-3382] or email [adoptahighway@VirginiaDOT.org](mailto:adoptahighway@VirginiaDOT.org).**

Once you have submitted the application and VDOT approves it, you can obtain safety vests, orange bags and important safety training information. In one to two months, your signs will be erected and you can clean your adopted section of highway.

## Adopt-A-Spot

The Adopt-A-Spot program is a cleanup project of Clean Fairfax Council which encourages citizen participation in litter cleanups of designated areas in their community at regular intervals. Individuals, organizations, or businesses, may agree to keep a designated area, other than a highway, cleared of litter for a two-year period.

In exchange, volunteers are given materials to help them with the cleanups, and a sign bearing their name to be posted in the area. At the end of the two-year period, the volunteers will receive a special certificate of appreciation and may renew their agreement.

Adoptable locations could include parks, vacant lots, parking lots, walkways, median strips, streets, campuses, public grounds, bus stops, and other littered areas.

**For more information please call Rosemary Byrne at 703-32405471 or visit the Adopt-A-Spot website at [www.cleanfairfaxcouncil.org](http://www.cleanfairfaxcouncil.org).**



## 2009 NATIVE SEEDLING SALE This sale is...for the birds!

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conversation District's annual seedling sale makes low-cost native shrub and tree seedlings available to Northern Virginia residents. Seedling packages go on sale each year in January and are available for pick-up in mid-April. Trees and shrubs help cleanse water, prevent soil erosion, provide habitat, cool our climate and clean our air. Consider adding native trees and shrubs to your community today!



Trees and shrubs provide seeds or berries, shelter and nesting sites for birds. The seedling selections in this year's package were chosen with our feathered friends in mind. They will attract songbirds to your backyard and help sustain them year-round.

Each seedling package has 12 bare-root seedlings for \$17.95 and includes two each of: Washington Hawthorn, Common Elderberry, Willow Oak, Silky Dogwood, American Hazelnut and Common Persimmon. All of the seedlings are suited for planting in the greater Washington, DC area.

You may order your seedlings at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.pdf>

## Spotlight on Non-Profits and Human Services

### Free Income Tax Preparation



Families throughout Northern Virginia received over \$2 million in federal refunds last tax season through this free service.

If you worked in 2008, and earned less than \$42,000, then you may qualify. IRS certified volunteers will ensure you receive the maximum tax refund and help determine if you are eligible for the earned income tax credit.

Please bring the following items:

- Social Security cards and birthdates for the taxpayer, spouse and dependents.
- If married and filing a joint return, both spouses must be present.
- Wage and earnings statements: W-2, W-2G, 1099-R.
- Unemployment compensation, Form 1099G.
- Interest and dividend statements.
- Day care expenses paid in 2008 and the day care provider's name, address and federal ID number.
- Student loan interest payments.
- Record tuition or student loan payments, 1098-E.
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns including economic stimulus check total.
- A check or deposit slip if you want direct deposit.

Sites open starting January 24 through April 15, 2009. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Site Locations in and around the Dranesville District and hours of operation:

#### **Falls Church Skillsource**

6245 Leesburg Pike, #315  
Falls Church, VA 22044

Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m. and Saturdays, 9-11:30 a.m.

#### **Lake Anne Skillsource**

11484 Washington Plaza West, Suite 110  
Reston, VA 20190

Thursdays, 3-8 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

#### **Herndon Resource Center**

1086 Elden Street  
Herndon, VA 20170

Wednesdays, 6-8p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### **Tysons-Pimmit Library**

7584 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22043

Mondays, 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays, 1-4 p.m.

Not available for tax preparation services on April 4.

**For more information about the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, please contact the Falls Church SkillSource Center at: 703-533-5400; TTY 703-533-5316.**

### Supervisor Foust Hosting Real Estate Tax Relief Workshop *for Older Adults and Disabled Residents*

Fairfax County provides real estate tax relief to citizens who are either 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled, and meet income and asset eligibility requirements.

Dranesville District residents who believe they may qualify for the tax relief are invited to attend a workshop to help complete tax relief application forms. The workshop, hosted by Dranesville District Supervisor John W. Foust, will be held on March 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101. Home visits by county staff are also available by appointment.

Personnel from the county's Department of Tax Administration will be present to help eligible residents apply for tax relief.

Older adults and disabled residents looking for more information about real estate tax relief can call the Department of Tax Administration at 703-222-8234, TTY 703-222-7594, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Additional information is available online at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief\\_home.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief_home.htm).

For more information or to schedule time for a personal consultation, contact the Dranesville District Supervisor's Office at 703-356-0551, TTY 711.

## GIVE LOCALLY- GIVE GENEROUSLY- GIVE NOW

Because of the current economic downturn, many Fairfax County residents have suffered increased unemployment, decreases in wages and numerous housing foreclosures. Requests for basic economic assistance in our region is greater than anything we have seen in recent history. Fairfax County has received a 61% increase in requests for help since January 2006. The largest increase in requests includes emergency food (125% increase) and food stamps (116% increase), job search (79% increase), emergency housing payment assistance (81% increase) and subsidized housing (88% increase). Requests for help with basic immediate needs, such as food and rent, is greater than nonprofits, faith-based communities, and governments and schools can meet.

To help address these needs and to help strengthen the basic needs safety net system during this economic crisis, a coalition of community partners have organized “**Fairfax Cares**”. Dranesville residents can be proud of Janie Strauss, our School Board representative, who was a leader in forming this coalition.

Fairfax Cares connects the community with area non-profits and faith-based groups that provide emergency help for people requiring basic needs assistance. Fairfax Cares receives and distributes monetary donations, helps keep the food pantry shelves plentiful and brings out the best in our community. Donations are distributed by the Northern Virginia Community Foundation (NVCF) through an allocation process determined by the Fairfax Cares Advisory Committee. You can learn more about Fairfax Cares and make a tax deductible contribution by going to [www.fairfaxcares.org](http://www.fairfaxcares.org).



# **Transportation Options in Fairfax County**

The Fairfax County Area Disability Services Board is offering a free program to learn about accessible, safe, equitable, affordable, efficient, and environmentally friendly transportation in Fairfax County.

Through a combination of presentations, group discussions, and practical experiences, participants will learn about:

- Universal benefits of accessible sustainable transportation
- How to help others access and use public transportation
- The Americans with Disabilities Act's role in public transportation
- How to create more inclusive pedestrian environments
- How to collaborate with county staff and other stakeholders to improve transportation

This program is sponsored by Easter Seals Project ACTION and the Fairfax County Department of Family Services' Disabilities Services Planning and Development.

**Saturday, March 28**

**10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

(Free lunch will be served)

**South County Government Center, Room 217**

**8350 Richmond Highway**

**Alexandria, VA 22309**

RSVP required by March 16

Contact 703-324-5874 or [jill.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:jill.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov)

*For more information or reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-5874  
703-499-1186 TTY or [jill.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:jill.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov).*

