



From the desk of Joan M. DuBois

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# Dranesville Dispatch

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## *Letter from Supervisor Joan DuBois*

As I begin my third year as your Supervisor, I continue to look for ways to better communicate with you about all the creative and positive things that go on throughout the Dranesville District. I am particularly proud that 2005 saw the successful conclusion of negotiations to acquire easements over a major portion of Salona, insuring that this historic property is preserved from development in perpetuity. The Difficult Run portion of the cross-county trail in Great Falls was opened in December, and a new Senior Center opened at Harbor House in Herndon. The long awaited four-bay Wolf Trap Fire Station on Beulah Road was approved. Playground equipment has been installed, and the carousel is on the way for a spring opening of Clemijontri Park, the county's first multi-sensory facility for children with disabilities. Last April, the Board dedicated one penny on the real estate tax to preserve affordable housing, and we are close to our goal of preserving 1,000 existing residential units.

Citizen steering committees have completed draft Watershed Plans for Difficult Run, and the Middle Potomac which includes Pimmit, Bull Neck, Turkey and Scotts Runs. These plans propose ways to reduce flooding, restore streams, protect wildlife, and our sources of drinking water. A second penny of your taxes has been dedicated to address longstanding stormwater problems including several in Dranesville. The Palladium project in downtown McLean is now complete, and public entertainment at the fountain on the "civic place green" will begin in the spring.

Nevertheless, we will continue to face challenges in 2006. For the seventh consecutive year, double-digit assessment increases have been projected for Dranesville. The Superintendent of Schools is seeking a 9.85% increase in school funding, and the County Executive will present his budget at the end of February. I remain available to speak to your civic or homeowner association on taxes, development, traffic calming, trails, transportation or, on any other issue of concern to your community. I will produce several shows on Channel 16 this year and expect to send out more regular e-newsletters on emerging "hot topics." In the meantime, I am honored to serve you and wish each of you a prosperous and happy 2006.



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## Supervisor DuBois Holds Office Hours in Great Falls

Great Falls and area residents are invited to meet with Supervisor DuBois at her Great Falls Office. The Supervisor is holding office hours the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at the Great Falls Community Library from 3:00 –6:00 PM. Appointments are recommended but not required. To make an appointment contact the McLean office at 703-356-0551.

“Business is picking up as constituents take advantage of the opportunity to voice their questions, concerns and comments.”

## New Residential Curbside Recycling in County

All solid waste companies in Fairfax County will now be collecting the same materials.

**Recycling in the bin:** plastic bottles & jugs only; metal food containers (labels and lids OK).

**In bin, bag or container:** junk mail, magazines, mixed paper and catalogs; flattened cardboard; newspapers; phone books; cereal and cracker boxes.

**At the curb:** grass, leaves, brush, mulch (no stumps, rocks or bricks)

**NOT recyclable:** yogurt or dairy tubs; plastic bags; styrofoam packaging; plastic food boxes or trays; aluminum foil and trays; foam take-out containers; pizza boxes; hard back books; paper plate & napkins; lids, caps, tops; ceramics; light bulbs; prescription vials; alkaline batteries.

Would you or someone you know like to receive the Dranesville Dispatch electronic newsletter?

Send your email address to [Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## School Budget Released by Fairfax County Public Schools

FCPS Superintendent Jack Dale has released his fiscal year 2007 budget, which totals \$2.1 billion and requests a county transfer of \$1.6 billion. This is an increase of \$184.2 million or 9.85 percent over last year's budget. The Board of Supervisors has requested that the School Board limit its request to a 6% increase or \$85 million.

The Superintendent's budget was developed using a tiered approach. Included in his request is a \$102.3 million increase to cover what has been described as mandatory school system needs and price increases, including rising fuel, retirement and health care costs (Tier 1); \$46.5 million for a three percent market scale adjustment for employees (Tier 2); \$15.4 million to fund federal No Child Left Behind requirements, instructional programs, technology, and preventive maintenance (Tier 3) and a \$20 million 'initiative for excellence' which would raise starting teacher salaries and enhance salaries for those with master's degrees (Tier 4).

The School Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 2, and has scheduled a work session on the FY 2007 budget on Monday, February 6, at Jackson Middle School. The budget is scheduled to be adopted on Thursday, February 9, and presented to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 4. Additional information about the FY 2007 school budget process is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2007.htm>. The County Executive will release his budget at the end of February.

In the two years since my election, the Board of Supervisors increased the transfer to FCPS by 6.57% or \$82 million (2004) and by 8.24% or \$109 million (2005.) The Board is committed to sustaining a world class school system. Nevertheless, only 25% of county residents now have children in our schools, and the Superintendent's budget projects an increase of only 17 students for next year. It is crucial that we balance legitimate school needs with available resources and against other pressing demands, including those for tax relief.

Our investment in our schools represents 53% of all county general fund disbursements. In addition to the General Fund, FCPS currently receives \$130 million of the \$200 million bonding authority available to Fairfax County or a total of 65% of everything we spend on capital projects annually. I encourage you to become involved in the community dialogue on the Superintendent's budget request and let the School Board know your thoughts and preferences.

## Community Dialogues on Tysons Scheduled



The **Tyson Land Use Task Force** has scheduled twenty community meetings during January and February for residents, business and property owners, commuters and non-profit groups to identify what is important to the community on the future growth of Tysons Corner and how the introduction of rail stations will affect growth. This series of dialogues will be the initial step in gathering community input on the future of Tysons. One such dialogue is being sponsored by the Lewinsville Coalition on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Spring Hill Elementary School Cafeteria. For a full list of meetings and to review the ongoing work of the Task Force, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/> and click the link to the invitation. To register, call the Tysons Community Dialogue Hotline at 703-324-1344.

### What is the Role of the Task Force?

In July 2004, the Planning Commission, at the Board of Supervisors' request, deferred a number of proposals to modify land use densities in Tysons Corner that anticipated the arrival of rail in the corridor pending a **Special Study** that would evaluate the area's transportation system and review all rail related Plan recommendations.

On May 23, 2005, the Board of Supervisors appointed a diverse mix of stakeholders from the community, businesses and major employers, as well as representatives from each Supervisory District, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, TYTRAN, and area neighborhoods to update the 1994 Plan and to formulate revisions that will: promote mixed use, facilitate transit-oriented development (TOD), enhance pedestrian connections throughout Tysons, increase the residential component of the density mix, improve the functionality of the area, and provide for amenities and aesthetics such as public spaces, art, and parks. If you cannot participate, I welcome and will provide the Dranesville representatives to the Task Force with any thoughts you may have on the future of Tysons Corner.

## Construction Site Runoff

A 24-hour hotline established by the Code Enforcement Division of DPWES continues to be an effective means for citizens to report complaints about erosion and sedimentation. For soil erosion and sediment transport and deposition affecting adjacent land or streams or other bodies of water, or mud being tracked onto public streets by construction vehicles, residents can contact the Code Enforcement Division at 703-324-1937. For problems with the removal and addition of soil without a construction permit, residents should contact the Code Enforcement Division or Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District at 703-324-1460. For problems with soil erosion on private property that are not related to land-disturbing activities, residents should contact the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District at 703-324-1460.

More information is available with regard to reporting environmental concerns or of possible violations of Fairfax County environmental regulations at DPWES' web site:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/urbanfor.htm>

### Community Room

The McLean Governmental Center Community Room is available for use by non-profit and individual citizens of Fairfax County, 18 years or older, for civic, cultural, educational, religious, recreational and similar activities of a non-profit nature. Groups are limited to one use per month.

For further on rules and regulations regarding the community room and to receive an application, please contact Pam Wilks at 703-356-0551 or visit:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/communityroom.htm>

## Library News You Can Use

The Fairfax County Public Library now offers word-processing software on public computers in all 21 of its branches. Library users can update resumes, work on school assignments and write letters in addition to accessing the Internet and checking email, all free of charge.

To use these services, readers must have a Fairfax County Public Library card or other identification such as a driver's license or school ID. Anyone who lives, works or goes to school in Fairfax County is eligible for a free library card. Each individual can use a library computer for two-30 minute sessions per day. There is a charge for printing-fifteen cents per black and white page or one dollar per color page.

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The County library system is also encouraging residents to donate gently used bestsellers to the library after they have finished reading them. The library often has hundreds of readers on the waiting lists but, because of budget restrictions, cannot buy the number of books it would take to fully satisfy avid readers.

Proceeds from used-book sales help pay for services such as library events for children, teenagers and adults.

For more information on donating books to the library or applying online, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library> or call 703-324-3100.

## Eastern Meals on Wheels Needs Treasurers

The Eastern Fairfax Meals on Wheels group needs volunteers for two leadership positions: treasurer and assistant treasurer. These positions are responsible for the finances of the group including a monthly report to the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. It would be helpful if the prospective candidates lived in the eastern part of the county in Falls Church, McLean, Great Falls or the Tysons Area. Please call the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Intake Line at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, or e-mail [Christie.elliott@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Christie.elliott@fairfaxcounty.gov) for additional information about these positions.

## Park Authority Completes Salona Acquisition

The Fairfax County Park Authority and the DuVal family finalized their agreement on the historic Salona property in McLean on December 28<sup>th</sup>. The County acquired the conservation easement and purchase options on the 52.4-acre site fronting Chain Bridge Road, Buchanan Street and Kurtz Road in McLean.

"This was an important property that was a perfect fit for a conservation easement," said Dranesville District Supervisor Joan DuBois. "I am very pleased that we were able to work cooperatively with the property owner and the Park Board, as well as other Supervisors who all recognized this unique opportunity to preserve the past and readily supported this acquisition."

Salona played a role in local, state and national history. It was the home of Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, a prominent Revolutionary War figure. Salona sheltered First Lady Dolley Madison in 1814 when the British troops burned the White House. Additionally, it served as headquarters for the Union Army during the Civil War.

The conservation easement joins the previously designated acreage to comprise a 52.4 acre site guaranteed to remain as open space and restricting any residential construction on the property. The Park Authority also received first right of refusal for the eventual sale of the property by the DuVal family, the current property owners.

The Park Authority envisions creating a park at the site with both passive and active recreational opportunities. Approximately ⅓ of the site is slated to remain mature tree cover while the remainder may host two unlit rectangular fields, picnic area, playground, parking, and new trails to link to existing trail systems.



## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

### New Appointees

#### *Civil Service Commission*

Richard Stacy

#### *Oversight Committee on Drinking and Driving*

Jan Auerbach

#### *Athletic Council (Alternate)*

Scott Wilks

#### *Animal Services Advisory Commission*

Katharine Ryan

#### *Advisory Social Services Board*

Penny Chaboudy

#### *Board of Equalization of Real Estate*

##### *Assessments*

William C. Harvey, II

#### *Human Services Council*

Jay Volkert

#### *Tenant Landlord Commission*

Ashley Walde

If you are interested in appointments or other appointees please visit our website at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/appointees.htm>

## Office Welcomes New Staff Members

Supervisor DuBois is proud to announce the addition of Catherine Hanes and Katharine Ryan to the Dranesville District office staff.

Katharine Ryan is a 2003 graduate of the University of Richmond with a Bachelor's Degree in Religion. Katharine will be handling Health and Human Services, Education and Faith Communities. Katharine also advises the Supervisor on animal issues, and she sits on the Animal Services Advisory Commission. Katharine is a lifelong resident of Fairfax County.

Catherine Hanes fills the vacancy created when Linda Lamersen moved to Arizona in December.

For the past five years Catherine served in the Fairfax County Department of Community Recreation Services as a project manager in the Athletic Services Division. During this time she worked extensively with community organizations, park and school officials and county agencies to improve athletic facilities throughout Fairfax County. Before joining the county, Catherine spent twelve years working with youth sport organizations in both the McLean and Vienna areas.

Catherine is a sixteen-year resident of Fairfax County who resides with her family in Vienna. Catherine graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Recreation.

Catherine's responsibilities will include managing park, recreation and youth issues and working along with athletic groups. She will also serve as the office liaison to the media and various community organizations.

"I am pleased to have two new energetic staff members bring their talents and experiences to our office team."

For more information on the Dranesville District staff and their areas of responsibility please visit our website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/staff.htm>

# Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study Task Force

## Final Report and Recommendations

In its final report dated January 18, 2006, the Hunter Mill Special Study Task Force concluded that the adopted Comprehensive Plan should not be changed and that the Special Study area should remain designated for low-density residential development at .2 to .5 dwelling units per acre. The Task Force also supported the adoption of additional Comprehensive Plan language recognizing Hunter Mill Road as a Virginia Byway, eligible for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

Since a portion of the Special Study area includes land that the County has identified as possibly containing naturally occurring asbestos (NOA), the Task Force also recommended that official Zoning Maps be revised to show the location of areas in Fairfax County possibly containing NOA, similar to a previous designation of Marine Clay soils. Finally, the Task Force suggested possible refinements to the Comprehensive Plan concerning park and trail access and to the transportation system within the Special Study area. To read the full text of these Task Force recommendations go to: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/huntermill/taskforce/schedule.htm> and click the link that says Final Task Force Report and Recommendations for Consideration.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Task Force Chair John Ulfelder for his efforts to bring the community to a consensus over many months of meetings. I also wish to publicly recognize and thank Dranesville members Judy Downer, Jack Wilbern, Chris Halligan, Gene O'Brien, Sheila Olem, Randy Schumacher, Jody Bennett, Kim Cunningham, and Jack Mansfield for their hard work.

## Dranesville District Congratulations

To Herndon Mayor Michael O'Reilly on his selection as the 2005 Citizen of the Year by the *Herndon Times*.

To the Friends of the Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run Park, Inc. on their upcoming celebration of 25 years of successful management of the farm, which is the only privately operated park in the National Park System.

To John Dudzinsky, Town of Herndon Community Forester, for his selection by the Herndon Masonic Lodge as the recipient of its 2005 Community Builder Award.

To Herndon High School Football Star Scottie Reynolds who was named AAA Northern Region Player of the Year.

To the McLean Little League World Series Softball Champions who recently met with President Bush at the White House.

To Michael Weiss of McLean for his achievement in becoming the alternate for the U.S. Ice Skating Olympic Team.

## Spring Sports Leagues Now Registering Players

Registration for baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse and other spring sports is underway for most of the local volunteer sports leagues. To aid you in locating a local league, the Department of Community and Recreation Services maintains a listing of all the County's sports organizations called the "Sports Directory" on their website. To find a league and sport in your area, visit the website at [http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/rec/Team\\_Sports/SportsDirectory.htm](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/rec/Team_Sports/SportsDirectory.htm)

Many youth leagues will provide fee waivers or scholarships for children and families unable to pay the registration fees. Check with your local organization. In addition, Fairfax County has a Youth Sports Scholarship program which will provide a fee waiver or equipment voucher for low-income children who want to participate in youth sports.

The application is also available on-line at [http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/rec/Team\\_Sports/pdf/YSSPform.pdf](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/rec/Team_Sports/pdf/YSSPform.pdf)

## Neighborhood Watch Program Benefits

With the events that occurred on September 11, 2001, our Country has made many changes. One of those has been to revitalize the use of neighborhood watch programs to strengthen Homeland Security. The core components of neighborhood watch form the foundation for protecting our nation against domestic threats.

Some neighborhoods may be more susceptible to crime than others; however, everyone should consider establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program. No matter what type of neighborhood: condominium, garden apartment, townhouse, or single family home, the benefits are numerous.

They include prevention of crime, raising awareness of crime, enhanced crime reporting, access to crime data, better communications between neighbors, and partnership with the police department.

### **Prevents Crime**

Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch Programs have aided the police department in reducing residential burglary, thefts of property, vandalism, fraud, sexual assaults, and even traffic-related offenses. Watch programs have impact upon crimes in commercial areas of their communities as well as in churches and schools. Crime is rarely stationary and often moves from one neighborhood to another. The establishment of a Neighborhood Watch Program in a low-crime area is added assurance it will remain safe.

### **Raises Awareness of Crime**

Home security and personal safety are enhanced, as residents become more aware of the threat of crime. Exposure to crime prevention techniques improves a citizen's ability to remove and reduce opportunities for criminals to act.

### **Enhances Reporting of Suspicious Activities**

Residents are more aware of who belongs in the community and are more inclined to report suspicious persons and activities. Typically, as the calls for suspicious activities increase, the actual number of crimes committed decrease.

### **Serves as a Warning to Criminals**

Neighborhood Watch signs alert criminals that residents are concerned about crime and will call the police when suspicious activity is observed. However, signs alone are of little deterrent value when not backed up by an actively participating Neighborhood Watch Program.

### **Promotes Neighborliness**

Neighborhood Watch encourages residents to interact with each other, sharing information about work schedules, vacation plans, types of vehicles belonging to their households, etc. It also encourages neighbors to observe the property of others and occasionally attend meetings to strengthen neighborhood safety and security.

If you would like to start a neighborhood watch program, please contact the Crime Prevention Office at your local district station of the Fairfax County Police.

**Officer Tom Black • Fairfax County Police • McLean District Station • 703-556-7750 ext. 2227**

**We are planning a town meeting sometime in March or April and would welcome your input on topics for discussion. Please email feedback to [Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov)**