



December 2009 : Issue 7

John W. Foust Dranesville District Supervisor

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Dranesville Dispatch

Dear Dranesville Resident,

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you and your family for a healthy and joyful holiday season.

As we begin a new year, it is likely that our biggest challenge, once again, will be the budget. Last year, after much work by the Board of Supervisors and county staff and substantial public input, the Board unanimously adopted a budget that balanced many competing priorities. This coming year will be even more challenging as the county is forecasting a \$316 Million shortfall and the School system is forecasting an additional \$176 Million shortfall. We still have a lot of work to do and many uncertainties need to be resolved before the 2011 Fiscal Year budget is finalized in April. Since a budget should reflect our community’s priorities, I encourage you to get involved in the process and to continue to communicate your thoughts and suggestions to me.

Despite these budget challenges, many good things are happening in Dranesville. For example, the Park Authority has recently acquired a two acre parcel of land that will expand the green open-space and complete the natural borders for McLean Central Park. In Riverbend Park, work has been completed on the installation of the Clarks Branch Crossing Bridge, significantly improving the trail and equestrian experience within the park. Construction is about to begin on the Great Falls Fire Station and the Dolley Madison Library renovation and expansion. Repairs to existing trails throughout Dranesville are ongoing. County environmental projects are focusing on rehabilitation of our streambeds, and improved stormwater management systems. New sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks and bike lanes are being installed to create a multi-modal transportation network for residents. And staff continues to work with the HOT Lanes and Dulles Rail project teams to develop plans for reforestation of the construction areas and to build sound abatement walls for the neighborhoods adjacent to the projects.

As this year comes to an end, I want to thank all the residents of Dranesville who have contributed their time and talent to help maintain the great quality of life that we enjoy. Volunteers have made huge contributions in many areas, including helping to maintain our parks, trails, stream valleys and recreation centers and serving on numerous civic associations and task forces that evaluate land use proposals, budget issues, and pedestrian and bicycle plans. In this time of economic stress, I especially want to thank those who have generously donated their time and resources to help our less fortunate neighbors.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and I look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Best wishes,

John W. Foust

Inside This Issue

Letter from Supervisor Foust.....	1
Dranesville Project Updates	3
Recognitions	9
Announcements	11
Helpful Information	13

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

Email your contact information to dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov

or

visit us online at

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 with your latest information.

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

Who's Who at Dranesville District Offices

For a more detailed list of staff assignments, visit our website at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/staff_assignments_by_subject_new.htm.

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

Phone: 703-471-5076

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

Fax: 703-437-3210

Dranesville Project Updates

HOTLanes & Dulles MetroRail Update

The construction activity appears to be non-stop as work is progressing on schedule with both these major transportation projects in our community. Please be aware that traffic patterns along Rt. 123, Dolley Madison Blvd. and Rt. 7, Leesburg Pike have been changed in many locations. Utility work, excavation, and construction work have caused lane shifts, turn lane changes, and even late- night, temporary shutting down of all lanes of I-495, the Beltway.

For more information on the HOTLanes project visit <http://www.vamegaprojects.com/about-megaprojects/i495-hot-lanes/> or contact Steven Titunik, Communications Director for Virginia Megaprojects at Steven.Titunik@VDOT.Virginia.gov or 571-483-2591.

For more information on the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, please visit www.dullesmetro.com or call 703-572-0506. For construction-related emergencies, please call the 24-hour Project Hotline at 877-585-6789.

Dranesville Budget Task Force Reconvenes for the 2011 Fiscal Year

Supervisor Foust has turned again to the Dranesville Budget Task Force, chaired by Rip Sullivan, for the hard job of analyzing the enormous projected budget shortfall for next fiscal year (2011). The Task Force will provide Supervisor Foust and the rest of the Board of Supervisors with ideas and suggestions for closing the budget gap, while still preserving the high quality of life in Fairfax County.

Supervisor Foust challenged the Task Force to reconvene and build on its conclusions of last year, which proved to be very helpful to the Board for the 2010 fiscal year budget. Addressing last year's budget deficit was difficult. This year may be even tougher. The Task Force has not yet reached any conclusions, and expects to issue its report in late January. One thing is clear: this group of diverse Dranesville residents is taking a close look at every option available, and will predictably bring a fresh and important perspective to the daunting financial challenges facing our County.

Dead Run Streambed Restoration

McLean Central Park is in the midst of a major stream improvement project conducted by the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. The project will restore the streambed and rebuild and reinforce the stream banks as well as constructing improved stormwater management systems. The development is on schedule and should be completed in early spring.

Clark's Branch Crossing is Open

December 17, 2009 was a day for celebration in Riverbend Park as the newly installed bridge at Clark's Branch Crossing officially opened for public use. The new pedestrian and equestrian crossing was christened by Great Falls resident, Robin Rentsch, when she rode her horse across the new bridge. The Great Falls Trailblazers, the Great Falls Citizens Association, the Potomac Heritage Trail Association and the Friends of Riverbend Park had been very active for a number of years in building community participation and seeking funds to support the project since its conception. Because of the ecological and historical sensitivity of the area, numerous hydraulic, geology and archeological studies were needed before construction could begin. Funding was provided through the 2008 Fairfax County Park Bond and a series of grants from the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail office. An official ribbon cutting will be scheduled for spring 2010.

Park Authority Acquires Birge-Fadoul Property in McLean

The Fairfax County Park Authority, with the financial support of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has acquired a more than two-acre parcel of parkland in McLean, Virginia. The Birge-Fadoul parcel acquisition, located near the intersection of Old Dominion Drive and Dolley Madison Boulevard, prevents the construction of intensive development along the edge of the existing 26-acre McLean Central Park, provides much-needed open space as well as providing additional buffer for the ecologically sensitive Dead Run.

Negotiations for the property began officially in 2005, but the county became interested in the property in 2000 when it was believed that the expansion of Dolley Madison Library would significantly impact adjacent parkland. There are leases of up to 18 months with the existing tenants in two residences on the property.

While the actual use of the properties will be determined through the Park Authority's public master planning process, this acquisition may permit the construction of additional park amenities within McLean Central Park such as expansion of the village green and improved access to existing park features. Public information meetings will take place prior to any decision regarding changes to the park's master plan.

Downtown McLean Revitalization Efforts

As reported in a previous newsletter, three public forums were sponsored in spring 2008 by Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust along with the McLean Planning Committee (MPC) and the Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment (OCR). The well-attended forums 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 Avenue.

Shortly after the public forums, McLean Properties hired Robert Charles Lesser & Co., a nationally-renowned land use programming firm to prepare a market analysis that evaluated demographics of the community, examine unmet needs and determined needs for residential, civic, office and retail space. The analysis was completed in early 2009.

In late summer, after evaluating a number of companies, McLean Properties selected the firm of Sasaki Associates to be the Master Planner for a portion of downtown McLean. (Sasaki prepared the master plan for Potomac School and the landscaping plan for the Lincoln Memorial.) Using the market analysis and the results of the public forums, Sasaki has begun work on suggested layouts for the area. Early preliminary concepts were presented to Supervisor Foust, representatives of the OCR and members of the MPC in October.

At this time, plans are being fleshed out, and McLean Properties will present a more detailed design in January. McLean Properties has stated that it hopes to have recommended changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan available for comment in spring 2010.

In the interim, staff from Supervisor Foust's office and the MPC Main-Street Subcommittee meet regularly to discuss the revitalization project. The MPC, the OCR 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.

For more information please contact Supervisor Foust's office at 703-356-0551, TTY 711 or by email at dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Volunteers and Supervisor Foust Clean Up Hutchison Elementary School Grounds

October 17 Supervisor Foust and 53 volunteers worked in cold, wet, 40 degree rain to clean up the fields at Hutchison Elementary School in Herndon. Volunteers came from the Herndon Police Department, Fairfax County Park Authority, Herndon Youth Soccer, Reflections Homeowners Association, Herndon Rotary Club, ESOL students from Reston Interfaith's Neighborhood Resource Center classes, representatives from the Airport Authority and two Herndon High School groups: Latinos Unidos and Students Against Global Abuse. Children, teens and adults worked side by side to clean up the wooded area and the fields.

The Crown Plaza in Herndon served all volunteers a full breakfast and local businessman and Rotary members, Don Owens and Chris Griffin, provided hot coffee and hot chocolate to help volunteers warm up at the end of the effort. Fairfax County Park Authority did an outstanding job of providing supplies, keeping volunteers organized and managing the trash removal.



McLean Pedestrian Task Force Delivers Final Report

The McLean Pedestrian Task Force delivered its final report to Dranesville Supervisor John Foust at a ceremony on November 5 at the McLean Governmental Center. The report detailed findings and recommendations to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in and around the McLean downtown Community Business Center.

The Task Force made numerous specific recommendations to correct the problems, with the most prominent relating to the speed of traffic in downtown McLean and pedestrian accessibility, specifically missing and poorly maintained sidewalks and inadequate crossings.

The report also explicitly asks that the report and the recommendations be acted upon, rather than “gathering dust on a shelf.” Toward this end Task Force members recommended a formal on-going effort devoted to the implementation of the recommendations.

Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust appointed the McLean Pedestrian Task Force in the late summer of 2008 to study the McLean downtown Community Business Center and access to it and make recommendations for how the areas can be made safer and more accessible for pedestrians and bicyclists. The Task Force, chaired by Doug Potts, met monthly since September of last year and examined nearly every street in downtown McLean.

A copy of the task final report is available for viewing in the Supervisor’s office. In addition, the report can be found on-line at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/pedestrian_bicycle_taskforce.htm.

For more information please contact Supervisor Foust’s office at 703-356-0551, TTY 711 or by email at dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov.



*Task Force Chairman, Doug Potts, delivers
Final Report to Supervisor John Foust*

Calming Traffic in the Dranesville District

Traffic calming is the process of slowing the speed of traffic on a residential street using devices such as speed humps, speed tables or multi-way stop signs. Traffic calming is a program of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), administered in collaboration with Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) and conducted under the leadership of a neighborhood traffic calming task force.

To start the traffic calming process for a Dranesville neighborhood, the office of Supervisor John Foust is first notified by letter with a description of the problems and the exact blocks of the road with the speeding problems. If the street is in a neighborhood with a Homeowners Association, the letter is signed by the President of that Association. Otherwise, the letter is signed by residents of ten unique households on the street.

A study is then conducted to determine if the conditions are present to justify the traffic improvement. For roads that qualify, FCDOT and VDOT evaluate the road geometry and, using input from a community task force, propose a traffic calming plan. The task force then publicizes and holds a community meeting to discuss the proposal. Next, the task force conducts a community vote to determine if the neighborhood supports the proposed traffic calming plan. Any households requiring the use of the road to access their home (as determined by FCDOT) are eligible to vote. The results of the vote guide the Supervisor to recommend or not recommend installation of the traffic calming plan to the full Board of Supervisors.

There are numerous neighborhoods in the Dranesville District in various stages of the traffic calming process. The following roads have recently had traffic calming plans installed or are in the process of plan installation:

Lemon Road, McLean
Birch Road, McLean (partially installed)
Ingleside Avenue (south of Old Dominion Drive)
Trap Road, Vienna
Davidson Road, McLean

For more information on the traffic calming process contact Julie Ide in the office of Supervisor Foust at 703-356-0551 or Julie.Ide@FairfaxCounty.gov.

Distance-Based Tolls Recommended

Drivers attempting to bypass increasingly high tolls on the Dulles Greenway and Dulles Toll Road are filling roads designed for local access to capacity. According to Supervisor John Foust and Chairman Sharon Bulova, this problem is the result of tolls that are fixed and high, regardless of the distance driven on the toll road. An example of this problem is the significant congestion on Route 28, Herndon Parkway, Elden Street and Sterling Road created by drivers avoiding the Dulles Greenway. Also, according to Supervisor Foust, roughly a third of the traffic traveling on Route 7 in Tysons Corner is actually through-traffic. This is traffic that does not have an origin or destination in Tysons corner.

The Dulles Toll Road is owned by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. The Dulles Greenway is owned by a private Australian company, Toll Investors Partnership II. Supervisor Foust and Chairman Bulova have directed officials from Fairfax County to work with Loudoun County, the Town of Herndon, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the owners of the roads to study whether reduced tolls could be applied to shorter, local trips on the Greenway and the Dulles Toll Road.

Update on Transportation Improvements in Dranesville

Completed:

Walker Road: Add Right Turn Lane and sidewalk From south bound Walker Road to west bound Georgetown Pike and signal modifications.

Bridge over Clark's Branch, Great Falls: Construct a pedestrian, bike and equestrian bridge over Clarks Branch

Dolley Madison Blvd. & Ingleside Drive: Add pavement markings and signs to permit only right turns at this intersection

Under Construction:

Dolley Madison Blvd and Great Falls Street/Lewinsville Road and Balls Hill Road: Install crosswalks and pedestrian signals and complete missing trail segment on Lewinsville Road from Dolley Madison to Balls Hill.

Route 7 and Dranesville Road: Add signalized crosswalks on west leg of Route 7 and south leg of Dranesville. Add curb ramps, sidewalk and signage.

Route 7 and Magarity Road: Install or upgrade pedestrian ramps, including across Lisle Avenue. Upgrade existing crosswalk across Leesburg Pike and upgrade pedestrian signals.

Lewinsville Bridge over Capital Beltway

As part of HOT Lanes construction project, a new bridge over the beltway will have 5 foot sidewalks on both sides, 5 foot bicycle lanes between curb and travel lanes. Sidewalk and bike lanes will be continued to Scott's Run Road inside the beltway and to Snow Meadow Lane and Timberly Drive outside the beltway.

APR Task Force Wraps Up Year-Long Study

On December 14, Supervisor Foust's Dranesville Area Plan Review (APR) Task Force, comprised of citizens throughout the Dranesville District and led by Chairman John Ulfelder, completed a year-long study of proposed changes to the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan text. The Task Force considered APR nominations located in Fairfax County between the Town of Herndon and Loudoun County, and recommended they move forward to the Fairfax County Planning Commission for consideration.

The recommendations considered three parcels of land near the planned Route 28 Metro Station, located just east of Rt. 28 in Fairfax County. Future Metrorail stations along the Dulles Corridor, such as the Route 28 Station, create the opportunity for Fairfax County to plan for mixed-use centers where transit is connected to future employment and housing. Because of the proximity of the land units to the proposed Rt. 28 station, the Task Force recommended that the area should become a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) center with increased intensity and mixed-use development. The proposed transit station is planned to be approximately aligned with Rock Hill Road near the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) building.

All changes to the Comprehensive Plan will be contingent on fully funding the metro station. The Task Force also recommended that safeguards be in place to insure that future development will be tied to adequately funding necessary infrastructure. The Fairfax County Planning Commission will consider the nominations in early 2010.

In order to address some of the larger inter-jurisdictional challenges, Supervisor Foust and staff have also been meeting publicly with an inter-jurisdictional committee comprised of Members of the Board of Supervisors from Fairfax County and Loudoun County and the Mayor and Vice Mayor from the Town of Herndon.

For more detailed information contact Clara Johnson, Fairfax County Government Department of Planning and Zoning at Clara.Johnson@FairfaxCounty.Gov or (703) 324-1200.

McLean Winterfest Parade and Holiday Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 6 the second annual McLean WinterFest Parade took place, drawing hundreds of onlookers and participants. Dranesville Supervisor John Foust acted as Grand Marshall for the festivities, and lit the McLean Holiday Tree. The McLean High School marching band participated in the parade along with many others from neighborhoods, service organizations and businesses. The event was sponsored by the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce.



*Grand Marshall,
Supervisor John Foust*



*McLean High School
Marching Band*



*Falls Church Volunteer Fire
Department Driving an
Antique Fire Truck*

Herndon Fire Station Celebrates 80th Anniversary

The Herndon Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD), with the assistance of the Herndon Dulles Visitor's Center, held a celebration for the 80th anniversary of the Herndon Fire Station on Sunday, October 4 at the firehouse. The event commemorated the history of the HVFD and was a kick off for Fire Prevention Week.



The Town of Herndon first found need for a fire department in 1917 when a large fire destroyed parts of the downtown business district. The town chartered the Herndon Volunteer Fire Department in 1929 and the department opened its first garage and engine that same year.

The celebration event, attended by Dranesville Supervisor John Foust, featured photographs, newspaper clippings, videos and other memorabilia. Visitors toured the station and listened to presentations by the state and local officials present.

Donations to the Herndon Volunteer Fire Department to fund training and maintenance are very welcome and can be mailed to 720 Lynn St., Herndon, VA, 20170.

Recognitions

Herndon Fortnightly Club Anniversary

In 1889 eleven women in the village of Herndon formed a study club dedicated to “the mutual improvement of its members in literature, art, science and the vital interests of the day.” They named their group the Herndon Fortnightly Club based on their decision to meet every two weeks. This year, in September, the Herndon Fortnightly Club celebrated its 120th Anniversary.

In 1890, the club opened its library to the public in a rented room in downtown Herndon. In 1917, fire destroyed much of Herndon, including the library’s collection. Less than one year later, the club reopened with 1,000 books.

In 1927, after years of fund-raising efforts, a brick library opened at 660 Spring Street, staffed by Fortnightly Club volunteers. Forty-five years later, in 1972, the Fairfax County Public Library took over the operation of that library. In 1989, Fairfax County voters approved a capital improvement bond referendum that included funding for a new library in Herndon. The beautiful new Herndon Fortnightly Library, located on center street in Herndon, opened in May 1995.

Club members continue to support the library with volunteer hours, gifts and donations. And the club is a sponsor of the library’s annual Open House, an event that dates back to the branch’s Spring Street days.

In honor of the anniversary, representatives of the Herndon Fortnightly Club were recognized by the Fairfax Board of Supervisors on November 16.



Chairman Bulova, Supervisor Foust and the Board of Supervisor present a Certificate of Honor to representatives of the Herndon Fortnightly Club

Fairfax County Announces Recipients of the 2009 Champions of Character Awards

The Fairfax County Athletic Council and the Department of Community and Recreation Services announced the winners of the 2009 Champions of Character Awards. Winners are selected based on their contributions to youth sports in Fairfax County and their service in pursuing victory with honor. A coach, parent, and two athletes are chosen from each magisterial district.

The awards were presented at a ceremony on Tuesday, October 6 at the Fairfax County Government Center. Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Athletic Council presented the awards.

The Dranesville District winners were:

- Maggie Natal**, Female Athlete, Great Falls Little League softball
- Nick Fouty**, Male Athlete, Great Falls Lacrosse Association
- Mario Guillen**, Coach, McLean Youth Soccer
- Jim Long**, Coach, Great Falls Lacrosse Association
- Neal Falkenberry**, Parent, Great Falls Little League softball

40th Anniversary of Share Recognized by Board of Supervisors

In October Share, a coalition of religious and civic institutions, celebrated its 40th anniversary of assisting people in need. Share began in 1969, when the organization was formed to meet the emergency needs of the less fortunate in McLean, Great Falls, Pimmit Hills and surrounding areas.



Chairman Bulova, Supervisor Foust and the Board of Supervisor present a Certificate of Honor to representatives from Share.

Share is run entirely by volunteers. Every dollar raised from local service organizations, corporations, religious congregations and individuals goes into program operations. In a space at the McLean Baptist Church, Share offers food, clothing and household items. Share also provides school supplies to children as well as food baskets and/or certificates at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. It staffs a holiday gift shop in December where families can obtain gifts or gift cards. Share's volunteers offer free rides for residents needing to get to hospitals, clinics and doctors.

Share's services have been more in demand since the economic downturn; it is having difficulty keeping its pantry shelves full. Usage of the food pantry increased 20 percent this summer, and there is usually a line waiting for the doors to open. For the first time in its history, Share has a growing waiting list for furniture. In 2008, volunteers responded to over 1000 calls from people worried primarily about how to pay their rent, utilities and medical bills. Funds expended for the family assistance program were 50 percent higher than in the last fiscal year. Most of the funds were used to ward off evictions and utility shut-offs.

In November the Board of Supervisors recognized the contributions and efforts of Share with a certificate in honor of the organization's 40 years of community outreach.

Herndon Senior Center Announces Logo Contest Winner

The Advisory Council of the Herndon Senior Center recently announced that Herndon resident, Lee Powell, has been selected as the winner of their first ever logo contest. The contest encouraged entrants to design a compelling logo for use in the Advisory Council's ongoing promotional and fund-raising activities, which benefit all of the members of the Herndon Senior Center. As a result of the contest, Herndon now has the only Senior Center in Fairfax County using its own unique logo in addition to the County Seal.

The prize for the contest was a special sweatshirt bearing the new logo, which was rendered as wearable artwork by local business EmbroidMe of Herndon. EmbroidMe has been selected to produce a range of logo-branded items that will be sold by the Advisory Council over the coming months.



To order reasonably priced items carrying the new logo, visit the Senior Center at 873 Grace Street in Herndon, or for more information, contact the Center by phone at 703-464-6200.

Announcements

Herndon Council for Arts and Supervisor Foust Team for Shoe Drive

This holiday season Herndon's Council for the Arts and Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust partnered to collect shoes for children in need at Hutchison Elementary School. The drive collected new closed toed sneakers and gift cards for Target or K-Mart in \$10 increments.



Donors delivered the tennis shoes and gift cards to collection points at the Herndon Council for the Arts offices and to the Herndon and McLean offices of Supervisor Foust.

We are delighted to report that the effort produced over 50 pairs of shoes and \$430 in gift cards.

The shoes and gift cards will be delivered to Hutchison Elementary School on December 21. Thanks to everyone for their generous contributions!

McLean Teens Excel on Jeopardy

Two teen residents of McLean, Aidan Mehigan and Stephanie Radke, recently excelled in the Teen Tournament for television's "Jeopardy," winning large cash prizes toward college and travel.



Sixteen year-old Aidan Mehigan, a sophomore at St. Anselm's Abbey School, placed third overall and won \$15,000. Stephanie Radke, 17, a senior at Sidwell Friends School, advanced to the quarter-finals and won \$5,000.

Mehigan and Radke were two of fifteen teenagers nationwide selected for the Teen Tournament.

Strauss Foundation Fellowship Application Due

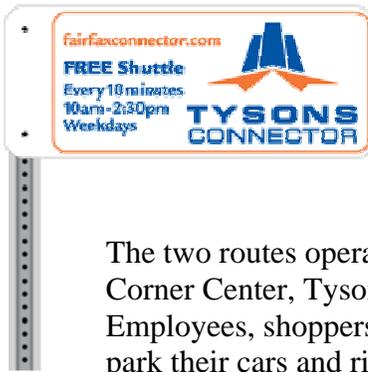
The Arts Council of Fairfax County is currently accepting applications from artists for the 2010 Strauss Fellowships. The deadline for Strauss Fellowship applications is January 19, 2010. Awards will be announced in April 2010.

The Arts Council of Fairfax County awards Strauss Fellowships to support and encourage Fairfax County's finest creative artists in all disciplines. Strauss Fellowships recognize professional working artists' achievements and their demonstrated history of accomplishments; they promote artists' continued pursuit of their creative work.

This is a competitive grant program where the recipients are determined by their work's merit. No specific project needs to be carried out with the funds granted - Strauss Fellowships award outstanding achievement in work that has already been completed.

For complete information on this grant opportunity and directions on how to submit an application, please visit <http://www.artsfairfax.org/strauss-fellowships>.

Free Midday Shuttle Comes to Tysons Corner



Beginning November 23, getting around Tysons Corner on your lunch break became a lot easier, thanks to a new lunchtime shuttle named the “Tysons Connector.”

This new FREE service features two midday shuttle routes operating at 10-minute intervals in central Tysons Corner.

The two routes operate weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to and from Tysons Corner Center, Tysons Galleria, and the major employers located nearby. Employees, shoppers, residents, and visitors to Tysons Corner are encouraged to park their cars and ride the shuttle for free.

To view a map of the new Tysons Connector route, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/pdf/tysonsconnectormap.pdf>.

VDOT Installs Traveler’s Information Screens at Tysons

Shoppers at Tysons Corner Center can check out how traffic is moving before leaving the mall thanks to real-time travel information now displayed on screens near mall exits. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) installed the screens to arm travelers with the latest traffic and transit information while construction is under way on the Beltway HOT (high occupancy toll) Lanes and rail to Dulles.



Five 50-inch plasma television screens are strategically placed throughout the shopping center to provide shoppers with traffic conditions, traffic video, bus routes and schedules and construction-related lane closures.

The screens are part of the Virginia Megaprojects \$21 million transportation management plan to help motorists during construction of the Beltway HOT lanes and Dulles Metrorail.

For more information on the Virginia Megaprojects go to www.VaMegaprojects.com

Computer Learning Center Partnership Needs You

The Computer Learning Center Partnership (CLCP) needs your help. CLCP was created to bring together and leverage the best of the public and private sectors to address the needs of the community.

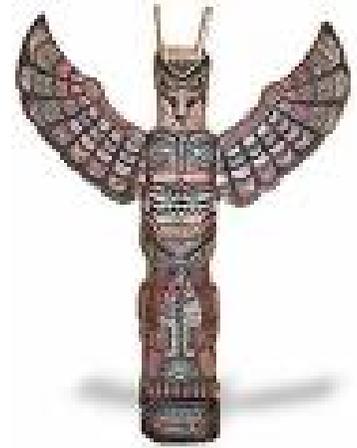


To accomplish this, the CLCP Advisory Council has initiated a pilot program to reach out to the private sector in the immediate neighborhoods of their centers to bring professionals who are passionate about their jobs and careers into the centers to share their skills, enthusiasm, and inspiration with the students. One such neighborhood is served by the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center.

The CLCP would like to identify new businesses and organizations in Herndon to join the effort. Please contact the CLCP directly for further information at 703-324-5171, TTY 711 or by Email at clcp@fairfaxcounty.gov. You may also contact Supervisor Foust’s Herndon Office at 703-471-5076 for more information on how to get involved.

Exciting New Exhibit Planned for Riverbend Park

On January 23, 2010, Riverbend Park in Great Falls, will host the grand opening of a new, interactive exhibit highlighting the culture and history of Northern Virginian Native Americans. Among the displays will be artifacts collected from archeological sites within the park as well as authentic replicas of items reflective of daily life of the Nacotchtank tribe of Fairfax County. Of special note, is a totem pole which has been carved by Native American artist, Rose Powhatan. Ms. Powhatan is a well known speaker on native tribes who traces her ancestry to the Pamunkey and Tauxenante tribes of the northern Virginia region. The totem pole is a donation on permanent loan to the park from the artist.



County staff, under the direction of tribal craftsmen, has constructed a dug-out canoe. Mary Smith, Manager of Riverbend Park, said that children will be encouraged to climb aboard the canoe and feel what life was like to hunt and fish along the Potomac River. Additionally, there will be exhibits illustrating the geology and ecology of the Potomac gorge.

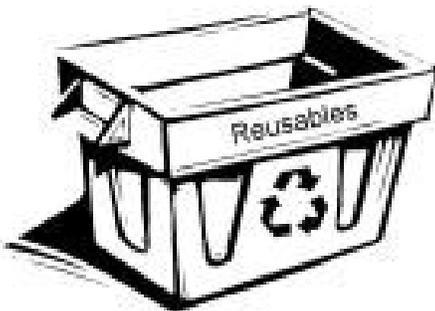
For further information please call Riverbend Park 703-759-9018. The park is located at 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls, Virginia

Helpful Information

Choose to Re-Use Online Directory

Cut your trash by 50%. Reuse material by giving it to local organizations

We are making more trash than ever before. Materials are being thrown away at an alarming rate despite their usefulness. The process of manufacturing, transporting, incinerating, and disposing these goods pollutes the air, contributes to global warming, and the 25% left as ash requires long-term management and storage in an ash monofill. Not exactly the kind of legacy we want to leave for future generations.



You can help reverse this trend. Instead of trashing material, give it to local organizations for reuse. Start setting aside your "Reusables" like packing peanuts, bubble wrap, and yogurt cups.

Reusable materials can be delivered any time of year to local organizations in the Reuse Your "Trash" Directory at <http://sites.google.com/site/choosetoreuse/directory>.

Winter Preparedness

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management recommends we follow these three simple steps to get ready for winter:



1. **Get a kit.** Emergency supplies for winter weather include – at a minimum – these basic items: three days’ food and water; a battery-powered radio with extra batteries; and a family emergency plan. After getting these supplies, then add a first aid kit, medications if needed, blankets and warm clothing, supplies for special members of your household, and pet items.
2. **Make a plan.** Choose an out-of-town relative or friend to be your family’s point of contact for emergency communications. Decide on a meeting place if your family cannot return home because of closed roads. Discuss with your family what you would do in case of severe winter weather in your area. Write down your plan. Get a simple family plan form at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.
3. **Stay informed.** Before, during and after a winter storm, you should listen for up-to-date information from your local media and emergency officials. Local media will give instructions from local, state and federal agencies that cover road conditions, winter storm watches and warnings, power outages and health information. Make sure your battery-powered radio is working and you have extra batteries in case the electricity goes out.

Some additional winter safety tips include:

- Keep space heaters at least three feet from other objects. Never leave space heaters unattended.
- Install a smoke detector in every bedroom and one on every level of your home. Check the batteries monthly, and replace them once a year at the same time every year.
- Make sure outdoor pets have adequate shelter, unfrozen water and food.
- Driving is most dangerous when the temperature is at or under 32° F. If the road is wet, patches of ice are possible, especially on bridges and curves. Avoid using cruise control in winter weather conditions. Call 511 or go to www.511Virginia.org for 24-hour road conditions.
- If your household includes someone with special needs (has a disability, requires electricity to operate home medical equipment, needs to go to dialysis, etc.) call your local emergency manager to let them know where you live and what you will need during an emergency.

Find more winter-specific safety information and related links at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

Snow Removal Information

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is responsible for removing snow and ice from the thousands of miles of public roads (interstate, primary and secondary) in Fairfax County. Clearing is done on a priority basis, with interstates and high volume roads cleared first. Once the most heavily traveled roads and emergency routes are adequately clear, snow crews move to less-traveled roads and subdivisions.

Please visit the VDOT snow removal website for answers to frequently asked questions on snow removal at [http://www.virginiadot.org/news/resources/snow2009docs/Snow Removal and Snow Driving.pdf](http://www.virginiadot.org/news/resources/snow2009docs/Snow%20Removal%20and%20Snow%20Driving.pdf) or contact Northern Virginia District Office for additional information at 703-383-8368, TTY 711.



Is Carbon Monoxide in Your Home?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is invisible, odorless, and a tasteless toxic gas. CO poisoning causes about 300 accidental fatalities in homes each year and sends thousands more to hospitals for treatment.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning exposure include: headache, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, and confused thinking (victims do not think clearly enough to get assistance). Without treatment, the victim will lose consciousness and their life if not helped. Carbon monoxide is produced by the incomplete combustion of fuels.

Common causes include:

- Faulty gas or oil furnaces and water heaters.
- Cracked and unclean chimney flues.
- Indoor use of charcoal grills.
- Use of a gas oven or range to warm a room.
- Running a car in an enclosed area.
- Closing the fireplace damper before the fire is completely out.



Carbon monoxide accidents are preventable. Actions you should take to protect your family include:

- Have a qualified technician inspect your gas furnace and appliances.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually.
- Never allow your car to run in an enclosed area, especially if it is attached to your house.
- Make sure your fireplace is in good repair and do not close the damper before the fire is out.
- Install CO alarms to give your family a warning if CO is building up in your house.

Carbon Monoxide alarms can be purchased at many local hardware stores. Ensure the alarm that you purchase has an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label. Carbon Monoxide alarms should be located on every floor and mounted according to the manufacturer's instructions. If the alarm goes off, everyone should leave the house at once and call 911 from a neighbor's house. Do not ventilate your house by opening doors and windows. When first responders arrive they will obtain CO readings in different areas of your home to determine the source of the leak.

If you have questions about your gas furnaces or appliance, contact your gas company. If your CO alarm gives a warning signal, leave the house immediately and call 911.