



March 2010 : Issue 8

John W. Foust Dranesville District Supervisor

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Dranesville Dispatch

Dear Dranesville Resident,

The February snow storms created many challenges for the state, the county, our public utilities and the residents of Dranesville. Throughout the storms and their aftermath, my office fielded hundreds of requests for snow plowing and power restoration. We worked very closely with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Dominion Power and the County Police and Fire and Rescue Departments to ensure that essential services were delivered in our communities. I am grateful to all who served us during this time for their hard work and the many personal sacrifices they made to help us get through this (hopefully) once in a life time snow accumulation. Recently, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors held a “Snow Summit” to provide an opportunity to discuss the lessons we learned with VDOT, Fairfax County Schools and Fairfax County Transportation Staff. I read your many thoughtful suggestions on ways to improve the process and summarized them before the attendees of the Snow Summit. I have also forwarded a **detailed list of your concerns on to VDOT**. Two recurring themes were: **there should be better communication between VDOT plowing operations and the public** and **VDOT should improve the way it communicates with and schedules its contracted plowers**. Many of you also expressed frustration that you worked hard to clear sidewalks near school bus stops and walking routes to schools only to have the paths re-covered by VDOT plowers. These concerns and many other issues were discussed with VDOT at the Snow Summit and I we will work to ensure that the process is improved before we have to deal with next winter’s snow storms. You will find some helpful information on snow storm follow-up activities inside this newsletter.

An issue currently facing the County is the projected shortfall of over \$250 million in next year’s County budget. The Board of Supervisors is currently considering cuts to all County services including fire and rescue, police, schools, transit, human services, libraries, parks and many others. While cutting services is never easy, it is especially difficult when requests for County services have increased significantly because of the bad economy. However, as we did last year after significant public input, we will do what is necessary to manage the County through these difficult economic times.

This newsletter 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. I have reconvened my task force of citizens to advise me on budget issues and have held numerous public meetings to discuss the budget and the budget priorities of my constituents. The budget for fiscal year 2011 will be adopted on April 27. Between now and then, the Board of Supervisors will work with the community to set priorities and 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.

Best wishes,
John W. Foust

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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 at Julie.Ide@fairfaxcounty.gov with your latest information.

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

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

SNOW STORMS



Cleaning Up Storm Debris and Debris Collection

Fairfax County residents are cleaning up the large amounts of debris left in the wake of record-breaking snow accumulation. Debris on residential property is the responsibility of the property owner.



All trash and recycling collection companies that provide service to Fairfax County residents are required to collect up to ten bundles, bags or containers of brush placed at their customers' curbsides as long as the brush is less than four feet in length, weighs less than 50 pounds and no piece is larger than six inches in diameter. All residents can contact their trash collection service provider to arrange pickup of larger quantities of debris and material thicker than 6 inches.

County residents living in established sanitary districts pay a service fee in addition to their annual tax assessment for trash and recycling collection service provided by the Fairfax County Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling. These county collection customers receive five special collections annually at no additional charge as part of their standard service. County collection customers may contact the Customer Service Center at 703-802-3322, TTY 711 to schedule a special collection for debris.

Help Remove Dirt and Sod from the Roads



Fairfax County officials are encouraging residents to help remove dirt and sod left on the roads by snowplows. Residents and business owners also are asked to replace any missing grass on their properties.

The county already is taking action on this issue with help from the Sheriff's Office Community Labor Force (CLF). During the next few weeks, these crews will clean up dirt and sod from the roads as they perform landscaping at bus stops and parking lots across the county.

"Because this problem is so widespread, VDOT won't be able to clean up every one of the 17,000 miles of roads that they're responsible for in Northern Virginia," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova. "This is why we're asking for help from the community and the county is stepping in to assist too."

In many cases, the sod can be transplanted back on the sides of the roads.

The Sheriff's Community Labor Force provides an innovative approach to incarceration and work release. The CLF partners with other county agencies to provide light landscaping services on county-owned property, saving taxpayer dollars. Labor crews, consisting of well-screened offenders, provide necessary services to the county that include graffiti removal, blight abatement, countywide litter pickup, bus stop maintenance, and overall beautification.

The CLF program participants can engage in meaningful work and develop employable skills. They also may earn "Exemplary Good Time" for their efforts, thereby reducing incarceration periods and the cost of incarceration to taxpayers.



Sign up for the Community Emergency Alert Network

Fairfax County's Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN) delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates during a major crisis or emergency, in addition to day-to-day notices about weather and traffic. Messages will be delivered to all devices you register. **To sign up visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean/>.**



VDOT Damage to property



If you believe Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) plowing activities damaged your private property (e.g. mailboxes) contact Cindy Mercer at VDOT, 703-383-2335.

SNOW STORMS

Report a Pothole

To report a pothole or other hazardous road conditions visit The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) road problem reporting website at <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp>. This site provides a mechanism for citizens to request VDOT services such as:

- Filling potholes
- Drainage cleaning
- Water drainage
- Bridge work
- Signs
- Guard rail replacement
- Traffic lights
- Animal, tree or trash removal

Note: Please submit a separate report for each request. **You can also call the Highway Helpline at 800-367-ROAD (7623). TTY users, call 711.**



Tree Down? Who is Responsible?

Downed trees continue to litter the roadsides of Fairfax County. The responsibility for removing the trees rests with the party who owns the tree, and that is determined by who owns the property upon which the tree was growing. Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and utility companies handle trees that fall into the road or across utility wires. They will come out to clear the fallen tree or any branches that have blocked roadways or compromised wires. VDOT and the utility companies are not responsible for removing the wood if the tree originated on private property. Property owners should contact their insurance company for more specific information as each company has their own policy for dealing with downed trees. The Fairfax County urban forester can be contacted if the tree was in Fairfax County park land. Fairfax County is responsible only if the tree originated from county owned property.

If you are concerned about a hazardous tree situation, please consider the following options first:

- **If there is an immediate life-threatening tree hazard threatening or blocking a public road, call 911.**
- If there is a tree fallen across utility lines, please call the appropriate electrical company, such as Dominion Power, 1-888-667-3000, TTY 1-800-522-4015, or, NOVEC, 703-335-0500 or 1-888-335-0500, TTY 711.
- Stay away and never attempt to approach or touch trees or limbs that contact power lines, as they are considered extremely dangerous.
- Trees adjacent to public roads and streets, contact VDOT, 703-383-8368, TTY 711.
- On county parkland, contact the Fairfax County Park Authority, 703-324-8594, TTY 703-324-3988.
- Posing a hazard to public Fairfax County areas, contact Urban Forestry, 703-324-1770, TTY 703-324-1877.
- On private property, removal is the property owner's responsibility. Be aware of the risk of chain saw injury during tree removal. If using a chain saw to clear debris, make sure that you do so safely.



Fairfax County FY-2011 Budget

County Executive Proposes \$3.3 Billion FY 2011 Budget

At the February 23 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, **Fairfax County Executive Anthony H. Griffin proposed a General Fund [budget](#) of \$3,294,107,674 for Fiscal Year 2011** (July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011), a decrease of \$133.3 million or 3.9 percent from the FY 2010 Revised Budget Plan.

The recommended transfer to the Public School Operating Fund is \$1,610,334,722, reflecting a 1 percent decrease from the FY 2010 Adopted Budget Plan. The transfer request approved by the Fairfax County School Board on Feb. 4, is \$1,708.5 million, an increase of \$81.9 million, or 5 percent over the FY 2010 Adopted Budget Plan transfer. Because of changes subsequently made in the State budget, it is unlikely that the schools will need any funding increase by the County this year. In addition to the Operating Fund transfer, the county's transfer for School Debt Service is \$160.7 million, a decrease of \$3.06 million from the FY 2010 Adopted Budget Plan. The combined transfer proposed by the County Executive for School Operations and Debt Service is \$1.771 billion, a decrease of \$19.3 million or 1.08 percent from the FY 2010 funding level, which represents 53.8 percent of total County General Fund Disbursements.

The County Executive recommended a real estate tax rate of \$1.09 per \$100 Assessed Value. Because of decreased assessments, that rate would hold average taxes paid by residential property owners relatively flat with their FY 2010 payment level. At the proposed real estate tax rate of \$1.09, the taxes paid by the average residential taxpayer will be \$48.55 less than their FY 2010 tax bill. Griffin also recommended a **\$33 vehicle registration license fee** that would generate an additional \$27 million if approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The county executive's proposed budget includes expenditure reductions totaling \$103.3 million and eliminates a net 284/282.73 SYE regular positions. In addition, **there are no compensation increases for county employees in the FY 2011 budget.** Some of the agency budget reductions take advantage of cost saving strategies; however, many reduce services residents currently use. The reduction alternatives include modification in county service hours and service levels, staffing decreases and service delivery models.

"This year, in the midst of the worst economic downturn since the 1930s, we are experiencing many significant challenges and changing circumstances that place strains and stresses on our community and our county government," said Griffin. "At a time of declining revenues from both county sources and our intergovernmental partners, we are also seeing increased demand for county services by our residents. These strains and stresses have made developing this budget much more complex and difficult than in years past."

In order to eliminate a **projected deficit of \$257.2 million**, Griffin outlined a four-step strategy that sought a balanced approach to the county's budget challenges:

- Step 1: Targeted Spending Requirements and Reduced County Expenditures
- Step 2: Strategic Use of Reserves
- Step 3: Continued Support for Fairfax County Public Schools
- Step 4: Reasonable Revenue Enhancements

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Fairfax County FY-2011 Budget

(continued from page 5)

In his presentation, Griffin added that this approach was consistently validated in community dialogues and employee brownbag sessions held on the budget this fall. **All areas of the county's budget will be affected, including schools, public safety and human services, which together comprise approximately 75 percent of the budget.** Griffin noted that without cuts to these areas, it would not be possible to balance the budget while maintaining an acceptable and sustainable level of services. Throughout the community dialogue sessions, county residents endorsed the principles of maintaining the current quality of life in Fairfax County.

In summarizing his budget address, Griffin emphasized that **future financial forecasts reflect flat revenue projections and consequently this "new normal" economic environment means all FY 2011 reductions will be permanent**, and that the economic recovery from the current recession will be less robust than seen in previous recoveries. Griffin noted that this means that there will be no organizational growth in Fairfax County government for the foreseeable future.

The County Executive's Advertised Budget is a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. After evaluating the Advertised Budget and working with the community to identify impacts and priorities, the Board will determine the budget for FY 2011.

Public hearings on the FY 2011 fiscal plan have been set for Tuesday, April 6, at 6 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday, April 7-8, at 3 p.m. Those wishing to speak at any of the public hearings should contact the Office of the Clerk to the Board at 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903, to place their name on the speakers list or [sign up online](#). The Board of Supervisors will adopt the budget on April 27. Key budget dates are [available online](#).

For more information on the FY 2011 Advertised Budget Plan, contact the Department of Management and Budget at 703-324-2391, TTY 711, or access the [budget online](#). The entire budget is also available on CD-ROM.

In addition, the public is encouraged to share their thoughts on the budget by [submitting comments online](#) or through the budget hotline, 703-324-9400.

Public Meetings on FY 2011 Budget

Supervisor John Foust held three public town hall meetings in Dranesville in March to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about and discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Budget for Fairfax County. Budget staff were present at all meetings to make a summary presentation of the budget and answer questions. The three sessions were held in Great Falls, Herndon and McLean.

The public is also invited to attend the following county-wide sessions relating to the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget:

Fairfax County Budget Public Hearing: **Tuesday, April 6 at 6:00 pm**
Fairfax County Budget Public Hearing: **Wednesday, April 7 at 3:00 pm**
Fairfax County Budget Public Hearing: **Thursday, April 8 at 3:00 pm**
Budget Mark-Up by Board of Supervisors: **Tuesday, April 20**
Budget Adoption by Board of Supervisors: **Tuesday, April 27**

Note: All budget public hearings and meetings of the Board of Supervisors are held at:

The Board Auditorium
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

Tell Us What You Think About the Budget

The public is encouraged to share its thoughts on the budget through the online forum on the County's website at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/fy11_budget_comment.htm and/or the telephone hotline, 703-324-9400.

Visit https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm to sign up as a speaker at one of the budget public hearings. Online requests to speak before the Board of Supervisors at one of the budget public hearings must be fully completed by 10 a.m. on the day of the hearing to ensure your place on the speakers list. Speakers may also call 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903, prior to noon on the same day to be placed on the speakers list.

Dranesville FY2011 Budget Task Force Recommendations Now On-Line

Over several months a task force appointed by Supervisor Foust to assist him in evaluating and providing input on the County's budget, reviewed, evaluated and discussed the upcoming FY211 County budget and the community's priorities with respect to revenues, services provided by the County and possible budget cuts. Despite their diverse backgrounds and different policy priorities, the Task Force achieved a consensus report that sets forth the principles they adopted for evaluating the budget as well as a series of recommendations and conclusions.

Supervisor Foust is grateful for the outstanding efforts of the Task Force, led by Chairman Richard C. (Rip) Sullivan, Jr. Other task force members are Steven Bloom, Sue Boucher, Don Finberg, Jim Mietus, Al Rosier, Rick Sargent, Ted Smith, Tim Thompson, Jim Turner, and Armand Weiss.

You may view the results of the Task Forces effort, the **Dranesville District Budget Task Force Report**, on the Dranesville District website, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/>, under the "News and Events for Dranesville District" section.

Questions about the Dranesville Budget Task Force may be directed to Wes Callender in the office of Supervisor Foust at 703-356-0551 or by email at wes.callender@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Dranesville Project Updates

HOTLanes & Dulles MetroRail Update

The HOT Lanes and Dulles Metro Rail have moved into high gear following the end of the winter snows and are having a significant impact in the Dranesville District. Along the Beltway and within Tysons Corner lane shifts and lane closures are changing the way motorists transit through the area. Lane changes should be well marked with signs and temporary barriers to help redirect traffic and motorists are urged to take extra care when driving through the construction zones. Please contact Cheryl Patten in Supervisor Foust's office to report any confusing or poorly marked lane changes.

Below is a timeline for lane changes which will be affecting our area for the next few months.

Dulles Rail:

- March 8 – late May/early June, 2010 - A **3 month closure** of Rt 123 southbound to on-ramp for eastbound I-66/Dulles Connector to allow for the building of piers and caissons for the Connector Bridge over Rt 123. Traffic will be detoured through adjacent streets to create a U-turn back onto Rt 123 northbound to access ramp for I-66 eastbound.
- April – June, 2010 – A **2 month closure** of the left-turn lane from northbound Rt 123 to westbound Tysons Boulevard. Traffic will be detoured onto roads that handle the trucks and construction equipment for the project. Extreme caution is urged. The closure and detour are necessary for the construction of caissons and piers which will support the foundation for the Tysons Central 123 station.
- Mid April – May 2010, - A **6 week closure** of Old Chain Bridge Rd. between Great Falls St and Anderson Rd to allow for the installation of a large rigid truss to be assembled at the Dulles Connector Bridge. The truss will support the elevated track that will run through this area. Local residents only will have access and thru traffic will be prohibited.
- March 2010 – March 2012 – A **2 year closure** of the right turn lane on Rt 123 southbound between Scotts Crossing Rd and Capitol One Dr. to allow for staging area and construction of Tysons East Station. Barriers along the auxiliary lane will allow employees of Capitol One and commuters using I-495 northbound ramp to continue to use the turn lane. The lane closure is necessary when the area originally identified for the staging area was subsequently determined to be protected wetlands. VDOT required a traffic study before the lane closure.

Future – A closure to the left lane on northbound Rt 123 to allow for construction of the pedestrian overpasses across Rt. 123 from the parking lot to the rail stations. No dates are available.

HOT Lanes:

March 31 – June 2010 – An **8-12 week** lane closure along Jones Branch Dr. to allow for a sewer line relocation. Traffic will be shifted to the west side of the road to allow for the relocation.

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.



Community Grant Program

Fluor/Transurban, the private companies involved in building the HOT Lanes have created a grant program to provide funding for neighborhoods and community organizations within the HOT lanes corridor. Sponsorship levels range from \$250.00 to \$5,000.00. Categories for grants include environmental enhancement projects and activities that work to promote the safety, amenities, economic improvement and quality of life within the communities surrounding the HOT lanes project.

For more details and grant application forms, please visit the Virginia HOT Lanes web site: www.virginaihotlanes.com/grants, or contact: Michelle Holland, 571-527-2068, mholland@transurban.com. Applications are also available in Supervisor Foust's office. Please contact: Cheryl Patten, 703-356-0551, cheryl.patten@fairfaxcounty.gov

West Falls Church Metro Yard

Residents surrounding Metro's maintenance facility near the West Falls Church station will notice noise reductions and a restoration to a nearby stream. The improvements are part of the rail yard's expansion approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 23rd.

Work at the yard is expected to begin this year and will include construction of a track connecting to the future Silver Line, the addition of a 23,000 square-foot annex building, storage tracks, and a track cover box.

The high pitched squeal, long an irritant to residents along McKay Street and Eastman Drive, created by cars traveling along the tight curve in the yard will be muffled by a track cover box. The \$10 million cover box, only the second in the country, will cover nearly 1,000 feet of track and will reduce the squeal noise at the property line to 55 decibels (Dba) -- about the sound generated by normal conversation. The cover box will be one of the first things constructed on the site.

Other noise emanating from the yard will have to abide by the County's noise ordinance of 55 Dba LMax in residential neighborhoods. Noises such as horns and truck back-up beeping will be allowed by waiver if they relate to safety operations.

Metro will be required to maintain a dedicated telephone line for noise complaints and respond to calls within one business day. They have agreed to meet twice a year with a communication committee comprised of the Lemon Road Civic Association and other nearby homeowners and/or civic associations.

The agency will also spend \$1.5 million to restore a stream adjacent to the rail yard. Metro will relocate and re-vegetate the stream bed using natural channel design. It will also install rock weirs to slow down water flow and protect private yards from erosion.

Phase one of the Silver Line will extend from West Falls Church Station through four stops in Tysons Corner to a station at Wiehle Avenue in Reston. It is scheduled to be operating by December 2013.

Board of Supervisors Approves McLean Personal Storage

The Board of Supervisors approved the McLean Personal Storage Project, located on the parking lot on Beverly Road, adjacent to the Madison Building. The approval was unanimous at the Board's March 9 meeting and will be one of the most significant redevelopment projects in downtown McLean of the past several years.

The estimated 550-600 unit facility will provide downtown McLean residents and businesses access to a needed storage facility and provide the opportunity to enhance the public streetscape.

The community, especially the McLean Planning Committee (MPC), worked tirelessly on this project to preserve the modest scale of downtown McLean and to implement the McLean Central Business Center Open Space Design (CBC) Guidelines. The project was endorsed by both the McLean Citizen's Association and the MPC.



The owner of the building has proffered to construct a US Green Building Council LEED certified Silver building and will underground over 200 feet of utilities along Old Chain Bridge Road.

The project will conform to the preferred streetscape design per the McLean CBC guidelines which includes ADA designed brick and concrete sidewalks and substantial landscaping. A pedestrian walkway between the Madison Building and the storage facility is planned and will allow mid-block access between Beverly Road and Old Chain Bridge Road. Two mid-block crosswalks on Beverly and Old Chain Bridge will provide a safe pedestrian connection for residents to the downtown businesses.

Construction is expected to begin in the Fall of this year.

Dead Run Streambed Restoration Now Complete

The restoration of the Dead Run Streambed in McLean Central Park has been completed and the newly enhanced stream banks are beginning to bloom with new grass and other growth. This project was conducted by the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to restore the streambed, rebuild and reinforce the stream banks as well as constructing improved stormwater management systems.

Dranesville Intersections Become Pedestrian Friendly

Several intersections in the Dranesville District have recently received improvements for pedestrians, including upgrading pedestrian ramps and crosswalks and adding pedestrian signals and signage.

Pedestrians will cross more easily at:

Route 7 and Magarity Road
Route 7 and Dranesville Road
Dolley Madison Blvd. and Great Falls Street/Lewinsville Road
Lewinsville Road and Balls Hill Road



Walker Road Turn Lane Extended

Construction of New Great Falls Fire Station Project to Begin Soon



Residents of Great Falls and others will notice the completed project extending the south bound right turn lane from Walker Road onto Georgetown Pike. This project will help alleviate the inconvenience caused by the closing of the Great Falls Fire Station cut-through that connected Walker Road and Georgetown Pike. More drivers will now be able to turn right from Walker Road onto Georgetown Pike. The cut-through was a driveway for the Fire Station and is being eliminated by the construction of the new Fire Station. Workers will soon be locating utility lines in preparation for the erection of the temporary fire station facilities and the demolition of the old station.

Tyson Development Update

Residents, land owners, and other interested parties have been discussing at several meetings this month the proposed update to the Comprehensive Plan for Tysons Corner. The current draft of the plan, released in January, proposes to transform Tysons from an area dominated by parking lots and vehicles and to a vibrant urban center.

Over the next 40 years the Plan envisions a doubling of the 100,000 jobs in Tysons today and an additional 80,000 residents -- about five times the number now.

The Planning Commission's Tysons Committee heard approximately eight hours of public comment during its March 11 and 17 meetings at the Fairfax County Government Center. Commissioners Walter Alcorn (at large) and Dranesville Planning Commissioner Jay Donahue, also fielded questions at the McLean Citizens Association's winter membership meeting on Tuesday, March 2.

Upcoming hearing dates:

- **April 21, 8:15 pm, BOS Auditorium:** Planning Commission Public Hearing on Plan and Zoning Ordinance Amendments
- **May 25 (Tentative):** Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on Plan and Zoning Ordinance Amendments

To view the draft plan visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/tysonscorner.htm>

Park News

Salona and Langley Forks Master Plan Process Begins

The Park Authority has begun the process for developing the Master Plans for Salona Park and Langley Forks Park, two properties within McLean. The Master Plan is a collaborative effort between the Park Authority and the community to create a blueprint for the use and facilities that may be built within a park. Over the course of the planning period the Park Authority holds a series of public meetings to present County staff ideas and to solicit community response and suggestions. Salona Park was created through a Park Authority special conservation easement which allows park uses, while Langley Forks Park is a long term lease agreement with the National Park Service. Please watch for notices about the public meetings for these parks or check the County web site for park planning at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/>.

To find out information or provide comments about Salona Park Master Plan specifically, please contact Andy Galusha, Project Manager, Park Planning Branch, 703-324-8755 or by email at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Library News



Amazon.com Wish List

Library Foundation and Amazon Team up for Book Donation Effort

Thousands of people are on the library's waiting lists to check out popular books and bestsellers. The Fairfax County Public Library is not always able to buy enough copies to satisfy demand. Now you can help shorten the waiting lists for yourself and others through the **First Loan** program.

Library specialists have created a list of high-demand books that you can purchase through a special [Amazon.com's Wish List](#). By donating one of these books to the Library, you can be sure that you're meeting an immediate and specific need. (Note: Although Amazon.com will suggest additional books for your consideration, please do not purchase books for the Library that are not specifically requested on the Wish List.)

When you buy books on the library's Amazon.com Wish List, they will be mailed directly to the library's book processing center. The Library will place a sticker on each book letting future readers know it was a gift to the Library. In addition, you will be notified by the Library Foundation that your generous donation was received. Your donation will be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

For more information on donating a book through the Amazon.com Wish List program, please call 703-324-8300, or email info@fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org.

Dolley Madison Renovations Set to Begin



On Saturday, March 6, 2010 the Dolley Madison Library on Ingleside Avenue, McLean closed its doors to prepare for an eighteen month long renovation. The renovation, which will begin this April, will add 8,348 square feet of building space, additional parking spaces, stormwater management improvements and extensive new landscaping. The renovation to the library is much more than a cosmetic fix. Careful thought was given to designing the library to meet user needs for the 21st century. The new interior space will include reading areas, WiFi connected quiet study carrels and reading chairs, 24 public access computer terminals, and innovative state-of-the-art energy efficient, green building (LEED) principles. During the construction, Dolley Madison Library will be housed in a temporary facility in the McLean Square (Balducci's) Shopping Center. The renovation costs for the library are being fully paid for with money secured from the 2004 Fairfax County Bond Referendum.



Library Sponsors Technology Fair for People With Disabilities

Fairfax County Public Library's Access Services branch invites people with disabilities, caregivers, friends, family and other interested parties to Tech Quest 2010 Friday, May 7, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. This tech fair will showcase assistive devices and local resources that can help those with disabilities enjoy reading and other pleasures of daily life. Tech Quest 2010 will be held at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. For directions to the branch visit the Web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or call 703-256-3800. For more information about Tech Quest 2010 call 703-324-8380.

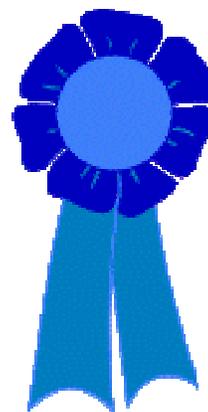
Generous support from the Friends of Reston Regional Library and the Fairfax Library Foundation has made this free event possible. A network specialist from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will offer continuous demonstrations for Talking Books customers on how to download digital audio books and magazines from the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) online collection. Other nonprofit and service organizations will also exhibit at the tech fair.

To request special accommodations for this event, call the Access Services branch at 703-324-8380. TTY 703-324-8365. Fairfax County Public Library's Access Services branch makes library services accessible to people with disabilities.

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. To request this information in an alternate format, call the 703-324-8380, TTY 703-324-8365.

Recognitions

Dranesville Schools Recognized With Virginia Board of Education's Excellence Award



The Fairfax County Public School district was one of 15 school divisions recognized with the 2010 Board of Education Excellence Award for meeting all state and federal accountability benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and for making significant progress toward goals for increased student achievement and expanded opportunities. Thirty-two Fairfax County schools were also recognized with the "Excellence Award" including these Dranesville schools:

Colvin Run Elementary School
Franklin Sherman Elementary School
Great Falls Elementary School
Kent Gardens Elementary School
Spring Hill Elementary School

In addition, **Herndon High School** was recognized with "Competence to Excellence" for meeting all state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and for making progress toward goals set by the Governor and the Virginia Board of Education.

Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program Announces Awardees

Four organizations from the Dranesville District were among those recently selected to receive funding for community-based projects by The Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program (NEPP). The NEPP was developed as a tool to encourage partnerships between the County and neighborhood-based organizations to assist in enhancing the quality of life in neighborhoods. The recommended proposals will leverage over \$305,000 in community funds, which include cash and volunteer labor.

During the month of October 2009, 63 project applications were received from homeowner, civic and neighborhood-based associations, requesting over \$250,000 in funds.

A committee of Neighborhood College and Citizen Police Academy graduates functioned as the selection advisory committee and reviewed each proposal based on the criteria that had been established.

The Dranesville awardees and their projects are:

Organization Name	Project Title	Recommended Funding
Cinnamon Creek Homeowners Association Community	Community Bridge Replacement	\$5,000
McLean Hamlet Community Association	Multipurpose Pavilion/Shelter	\$5,000
Westberry Homeowners Association	Metro Bus Stop Improvements	\$1,839
McLean Winterfest	McLean Winterfest	\$2,000

Theater Founded by George C. Marshall High School Former Teacher and Students Receives Prestigious Helen Hayes Award

Fairfax County's first professional theater, 1st Stage in Tysons Corner will receive the John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company, a Helen Hayes Award. The award will be presented at the 26th annual Helen Hayes Awards ceremony April 5 at the Warner Theatre and J.W. Marriott Hotel.

1st Stage was co-founded by **Mark Krikstan**, a former drama teacher from George C. Marshall High School. Productions have been cast as well, with graduates of the award-winning Marshall drama program.

The Helen Hayes Awards' announcement said "The John Aniello Award recognizes and encourages the efforts of companies who are just getting started yet have produced a body of work that is new, daring, and exciting." The award was established in 2008 in memory of John Aniello. He was "a devoted champion of young, promising talent and an avid theatergoer since 1960", the Awards said. Previous recipients include Taffety Punk in 2008 and Constellation Theatre Company in 2009.

The theatre recently donated 20% of the proceeds from the opening weekend of its February production of "By the Bog of Cats" to Red Cross Haitian relief efforts.

1st Stage is a non-profit theatre located at 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean, VA 22102 in Tyson's Corner, VA. It produces fresh, engaging interpretations of theatrical pieces and provides young professional artists a place to learn, perform, and nurture their careers.

For more information visit their website at <http://1ststagespringhill.org/index.html>, call (703) 854-1856 or email questions@1ststagespringhill.org.



Herndon High School Senior Wins State All-Around Gymnastics Title

Maria Hayden, a senior at Herndon High School, has been awarded the State All-Around Gymnastics Title. Maria has been participating in gymnastics since the age of three and her accomplishments are truly remarkable, winning numerous awards and recognitions at the local, regional and state levels. An injury abruptly ended her season last year but her work ethic and commitment to her sport enabled her to return and achieve much success for herself and her school this year.

In addition to winning the state title, Maria is one of only a few high school athletes who can claim to be a Washington Post All-Met for four consecutive years and was selected as the Gymnast of the Year by the Washington Post in 2007. In addition to her athletic accomplishments, she is an excellent student, team leader and role model for her teammates. Last year, when it appeared that high school gymnastics might be cut from the Fairfax Public Schools' budget, Maria spoke to local media on the importance of preserving the funding for her sport.

Maya Huber Selected as Dranesville District's 2010 Volunteer Fairfax Community Champion



Supervisor John Foust has selected Maya Huber to be Dranesville District's 2010 Fairfax County Volunteer Fairfax Community Champion. Ms. Huber has contributed to the work of the McLean Citizens Association and the McLean Planning Committee by providing extensive knowledge of Fairfax County's Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. She has evaluated numerous development projects to determine if they meet the letter and the intent of the Comprehensive Plan, and worked with citizens and developers alike to fine tune the land use applications and obtain concessions for community benefits such as pedestrian and transportation amenities. As part of her recent work on Supervisor Foust's Pedestrian Task Force, she prepared a report on how downtown McLean could be made more accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Ms. Huber will be honored along with other "Champions" at a ceremony on April 23.

Herndon's Laurie and Jack Corkie Celebrate 20 Years of Great Harvest Bread Stores

Laurie and Jack Corkie, longtime Town of Herndon residents, are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Great Harvest Bread Stores in Herndon and in Vienna as well as their retirement. Not only have they had a successful business that has produced some of the best bread in the area, Laurie and Jack Corkie have contributed to the community in which they live in many ways. Over the years they have been there for the hundreds of people who participate in the Herndon Festival Race and Reston Triathlon; they have also sponsored the Reston and Vienna stops on the annual 'Bike to Work' event held every May. They have participated in many special occasions for local Boy and Girl Scout Troops, the Council of the Arts, the Juvenile Diabetes Research, Giving Circle of Hope, Elden Street Players, and provided communion bread for local churches. And, they have given free slices of bread to anyone who walked into their Great Harvest Bread stores.

Langley, McLean and Madeira High School Students Honored for Service to Community and Planet

Five McLean high school students were honored by the Rotary Club of McLean for helping people.

Jan Gunderson of Langley High School has given her time helping orphans and other children in a Kenyan Village. **Thomas Dee** of Langley High School served as a Habitat for Humanity volunteer, founded the first ever high school chapter of Students Helping Honduras and raised money for the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life." **Madeline Parks**, of the Madeira School, participated in relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Haiti. She also helped her church group's mission work in South Africa and Guatemala. **Young Joon Cho** of McLean High School coached Special Olympics basketball teams and ran therapy and recreational sessions for kids with autism and Down syndrome. **Abigail Dean** of McLean High School helped build a playground in Appalachia and raised money for victims of the earthquake in Haiti. She also participated on a church mission in Kodiak Island, Alaska and co-founded a student anti-genocide coalition. Dean also produced a school talent show benefiting St. Jude's Children's Hospital..

The students were honored at the March 9 annual Youth Service Awards ceremony, held at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in McLean.

Supervisor Foust Meets with Long Term Care Coordinating Council and Life Circle Alliances

Supervisor Foust met on March 8 with representatives of the Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) and Life Circle Alliances (LCA) to discuss *Creating Partnerships and Building Community*, the Nov 2009 report on the LTCCC activities.



Christine Hyland, Executive Director LCA; Kay Larmer, Board member of LCA; Supervisor Foust; Myles Nienstadt, Evergreen Senior Care; Inc, Roseanne Rodillosso, Health Care Advisory Board.

Announcements

New Commercial Parking Rules in Place

On December 7, 2009 the Board of Supervisors approved changes to Section 82-5-7 of the Fairfax County Code, which prohibits parking of commercial vehicles in residential districts. The code changes are intended to better define commercial vehicles in the County code, in order to improve parking enforcement and respond to complaints about large/commercial vehicles parking on residential streets. Parking changes became effective February 1, 2010 after a 30 day warning period.

For a complete description of the new rules as well as photographs of the types of vehicles affected, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/parkingcodechanges.htm.



Fairfax Connector Implements Temporary Fare Surcharge

Effective Sunday, Feb. 28, Fairfax Connector implemented a temporary 10-cent surcharge on bus fares. The surcharge will ensure fare compatibility with Metrobus, who also will institute a temporary fare increase on Feb. 28. The surcharge will help address fiscal concerns for the remainder of a budget year in which Fairfax Connector underwent cuts in service and operations due to the County's budget shortfall and a decline in ridership.

In December 2008, the Board of Supervisors adopted a standing Fairfax Connector fare policy that would follow the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) fare changes in implementation date and rate structure. The surcharge will be applied to transfers as well per WMATA's fare policy.

Fairfax Connector fare changes:

- The regular base fare will increase from \$1.25 to \$1.35 if paying by SmarTrip® card and from \$1.35 to \$1.45 if paying by cash;
- Senior and disabled fares will increase from 60 cents to 65 cents;
- The surcharge will not be added to the express fares for routes 380D, 595 and 597.
- The surcharge will affect transfer costs. A charge will be assessed for passengers paying by SmarTrip® card who start their trip on a transit service whose fare is less than that of the Fairfax Connector.

For information regarding WMATA's fare increase, visit www.wmata.com.

For information regarding Fairfax Connector fares or bus service, visit www.fairfaxconnector.com or call the telephone information center at 703-339-7200, TTY 703-339-1608.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Needs Volunteers National Volunteer Week – April 18-24

April 18-24, 2010 is National Volunteer Week—a time to honor volunteers who are dedicated to taking action and solving problems in their communities and to inspire others to make service and volunteering a part of their lives. The Fairfax County Health Department invites you to learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). You do not need a medical background to become a MRC volunteer. The Fairfax MRC is an all volunteer program designed to augment the ability of our public health system to help our community during natural disasters and other types of emergencies.

Fairfax MRC volunteers recently played vital roles in Fairfax County's H1N1 vaccination campaign. Over 1,000 Fairfax MRC volunteers donated more than 18,000 hours to support this unprecedented effort during the 2009-2010 flu season.

It takes just ten hours of training to make a difference in your community. **For more information about the Fairfax MRC, call 703-246-8641 or log on to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mrc.**



Fairfax MRC volunteers prepare to vaccinate more than 8,000 people during a mass vaccination H1N1 clinic at the Government Center on Nov 21, 2009.

Helpful Information

Supervisor Foust Hosting Real Estate Tax Relief Workshop for Senior 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 tax relief are invited to attend a workshop to help complete tax relief application forms. **The workshop, hosted by Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust, will be held on March 25 and March 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 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.

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

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 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 should be filed by April 2, 2010

DTA, 12000 Government Center Parkway

Suite 357, Fairfax, VA 22035

703-222-8234 (TTY 703-222-7594)

Home: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta

The Board of Equalization (BOE) is an independent body appointed by the Board of Supervisors to determine whether the DTA has equalized the assessments among property owners. The BOE has the power to increase, decrease or keep the same assessment upon its review.

To request a hearing before the BOE, all property owners or their agents must complete the required application that can be obtained by contacting the BOE office or may be downloaded from the County website. Your application must be complete when submitted.

BOE Reviews:

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

The CEO Program: Helping you to Get Closer to Your Dreams

Announcing a program designed to help young adults between the ages of 17 and 21 who are getting ready to graduate high school or earn a GED prepare to enter the workforce. The Career and Educational Opportunities Program (CEO) provides assistance with career and educational development including resume building, apprenticeship opportunities, and GED and high school completion options.

CEO will help you gain the skills to succeed in tomorrow's workforce.

Are you :

- Getting ready to graduate from high school?
- About to finish your GED program?
- A teen parent or in foster care?
- 17-21 years old?
- Getting ready to enter the workforce?
- Looking for your next step?



We can help you with:

Career Development

Job Preparation Skills
Resume Building
Interview Coaching
Skill & Interest Assessments

Training Opportunities

Job Shadowing
Work Experience
Apprenticeship Opportunities

Educational Support

College or Vocational School Exploration
Goal Setting
Tutorial Assistance
GED & High School Completion Options

The CEO program may be right for you. **To find out if you are eligible contact Fairfax County Job Corner at 6245 Leesburg Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22044, 703-531-6290; TTY 703-533-5316 www.myskillsource.org**



Sheriff's Office Reminds Residents of Project Lifesaver Program

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office reminds families and caregivers that the Project Lifesaver program can search for and rescue loved ones who wander due to Alzheimer's, Down syndrome, autism and related diseases and disabilities.

Project Lifesaver clients wear a wristband that emits a silent tracking signal. When caregivers notify the Sheriff's Office that a loved one is missing, a highly trained team responds to the area with state-of-the-art tracking equipment. These efforts have drastically reduced search times to an average of 30 minutes or less. The Sheriff's Office found its first wandering client in under eight minutes!

"The true value of this program is in the reassurance it gives families," said Sheriff Stan Barry.

Project Lifesaver currently has 28 clients and many more coming online. Clients must be residents of Fairfax County, Fairfax City or the Towns of Herndon or Vienna.

For more information, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/lifesaver.htm or contact Lieutenant Jason Travis at 703-246-2805 or e-mail shf-projectlifesaver@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fire Marshal Must Approve Open Burning

Fairfax County Fire Marshals remind residents that open burning is prohibited, unless first approved.

A permit is required for all bonfires and controlled burning in Fairfax County, and the towns of Clifton, Herndon, and Vienna.

Recreational fires, outdoor solid fuel burning devices, and open-flame cooking devices are allowed, in accordance with the Fire Prevention Code. For questions about open burning and recreational fires, contact the Fire Inspections Branch of the Fire Marshal's Office at 703-246-4849 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/prevention/fmopenburning.htm.

Summer Meals Kids Program



Free Summer Meals Kids Program provides free nutritious lunches and some breakfasts for children ages 4-18. It is necessary to enroll 3 days prior to receiving services. Call 703-324-5282, TTY 711 to enroll your child. Eligibility forms may be required at some locations. You may also call 2-1-1 to find the location nearest you.

If you are interested in volunteering at a site please contact Brent Quarles at 703-324-5330 TTY 711 or email brent.quarles@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Backpack Food Program

Is your group or organization interested in helping provide simple meals for children during the school year who are going hungry? There is a volunteer-run program in coordination with Fairfax County Public Schools, providing simple meals for children over the week-end who otherwise do not have access to food.

For more information contact Sarah Newman, Floris UMC, snewman@florisumc.org. Phone 703-793-0026.

Brain Injury Services, Inc.

Any resident of Fairfax County who has suffered an **acquired brain injury**, or a family member, can contact Brain Injury Services, Inc. for assistance. An acquired brain injury (ABI) is damage to the brain that occurs after birth. This includes victims of stroke, accidents, brain tumors, infections, poison -including drug and alcohol damage, Anoxia -lack of oxygen.

Brain Injury Services, Inc. provides case management services at no cost. They also offer additional services either at no cost or on a sliding scale, including independent living skills training, respite care, specialized clubhouse programs and social skills training. At any given time, Brain Injury Services is helping approximately 500 individuals in the region manage the challenges of living with a brain injury.

For more information contact Brain Injury Services, Inc. directly at 703-451-8881 or visit their website at www.braininjurysvcs.org.

Free Income Tax Preparation from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program



You may be eligible to receive free income tax preparation this year from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). Families throughout Northern Virginia received over \$4.4 million in federal refunds last tax season through this free service.

If you worked in 2009, and earned less than \$49,000, 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.

Sites are already open and will be through April 15, 2010. For more information about the VITA program, please contact the Falls Church SkillSource Center at: 703-533-5400; TTY 703-533-5316 or visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childreneyouth/families/free_income_tax_prep.htm

Fill Out Your Census Form: Millions of Dollars Are at Stake

Census forms have already arrived in your mailbox. Fairfax County officials are asking residents to take 10 minutes to fill out the 10-question form. Completed forms should be returned by April 1.

Call Census Bureau's toll-free phone line at 1-866-872-6868 to get help filling out the form. It's important to fill out the form because the County gets hundreds of millions of dollars based on census data.

Getting Green

Potomac River Watershed Cleanup

Help out at the largest litter cleanup in the region! Volunteers are needed at existing cleanup sites or to start new cleanup sites in their own neighborhoods. Cleanups are scheduled at multiple locations throughout the region from late March until mid April. All supplies and instructions will be provided. Starting a new cleanup site is easy and rewarding! To see a list of sites seeking volunteers or to register your own site, please go to www.potomaccleanup.org. If you wish to start a new cleanup site but need some additional advice on the "whos, whats and wheres," please contact Dan Schwartz at the Conservation District: by dan.schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov or at (703) 324-1422.



Environmental Quality Advisory Council Seeks High School Student as Member

The Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) (website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/>) seeks a high school student to serve on the council from July 2010 through June 2011. As an EQAC member, the student will help make decisions and recommendations that impact the County's environmental policies. Membership is a great opportunity for growth and hands-on education.

High school sophomores and juniors in good standing may apply; home-schooled students also are encouraged to apply. Applications must be postmarked by April 30.

EQAC's chief function is to make recommendations to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for improving the County's efforts in environmental protection and enhancement; these efforts serve to support the board's environmental improvement plan, described at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/eip/>

.During monthly meetings, many issues are examined, such as hazardous materials, water and air quality, land use, noise, solid waste, ecological resources, deer management, visual pollution and light pollution. In addition, EQAC holds a public hearing each year to obtain residents' input on issues of environmental concern. The council also submits an "Annual Report on the Environment" to the board at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/report/>.

Applications are available from the science department chair, guidance counselor or principal of each public, private or parochial school in Fairfax County. Interested students also may contact Noel Kaplan, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning, at 703-324-1369, TTY 711, or by email at eqac@fairfaxcounty.gov. Information about EQAC and the student member position is available online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/student.htm>.

2010 Environmental Excellence Awards Nominations Now Open

Fairfax County is accepting nominations through June 1 for the annual Environmental Excellence Awards **recognizing those who dedicate time, energy and expertise to improve the environment in support of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' environmental goals.**

Awards are for achievements that occur June 1, 2009, to May 31, 2010, or for accomplishments that occurred over a period of years, including at least a portion of the eligibility period. One or more awards may be presented in each of the following categories:

- Fairfax County residents
- Organizations
- Businesses
- Fairfax County Government employees

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' **environmental agenda fosters a sustainable and vibrant living environment both now and in the future.** The Environmental Excellence Awards encompass:

- Environmental protection
- Open space conservation
- Energy conservation

The awards program is administered by the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) (website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/>) and supported by the Fairfax County environmental coordinator and the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning. For more information, call the Fairfax County environmental coordinator at 703-324-1788, TTY 711.

Third Annual Invasive Plant Removal Day Set

The third annual, statewide Invasive Plant Removal Day will take place at several locations on Saturday, May 1, 2010. The activities at the state level are being coordinated by the Virginia Native Plant Society and the Virginia Master Naturalists and can be found online at www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/invasives/

In Fairfax County, the Invasive Management Areas (IMA) volunteers and Park Authority staff will target non-native invasive species that negatively affect the quality of our natural areas. Non-native invasive species invade natural areas, threatening trees, devaluing wildlife habitat and lowering the quality of the resources. The Park Authority's all volunteer IMA program has workdays throughout the year, but on May 1, activities will take place in several locations.

In Dranesville, removal will be done in Falstaff from 9 a.m. until noon.

For additional locations or if you are interested in volunteering please contact Kathy Frederick at 703-324-8681 or katherine.frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov or register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima/.

Invasive species are, generally, non-native species that cause ecological or economical 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. Find out more about Fairfax's invasive and native species at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/stewardship.



Time for Some Environmental Spring Cleaning!

Clean Fairfax Council and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District encourage Fairfax County residents and homeowner associations to coordinate a community clean up for spring! Organized clean up days are a great way to meet your neighbors and improve your neighborhood at the same time.

During rainfall, trash from neighborhoods and streets washes into storm drains which channel runoff into the nearest creek. All Fairfax County creeks eventually flow into the Potomac River, our source of drinking water, and then the Chesapeake Bay. Picking up litter from your neighborhoods keeps it out of our waterways and away from wildlife.

Studies suggest that cleaning up a community helps it stay cleaner by discouraging future littering. Clean neighborhoods usually show higher property values as well, and in some cases, less crime.

Free clean up supplies--such as trash and recycling bags and gloves--as well as tips on how to have a successful neighborhood clean up are available through Clean Fairfax Council (www.cleanfairfax.org). Supplies can be picked up at the Council's office or sent to your supervisor's district office.



2010 Native Seedling Sale: *Nature's Palette*

Trees and shrubs add color, habitat and structure to your landscape from winter through summer. The species in the 2010 seedling packages offer bright winter berries, colorful spring and summer blooms and brilliant fall foliage!

The 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!

Download our 2010 order form at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/orderform_2010.pdf. Questions? Contact the conservation district on their website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/contact/MailForm.aspx?agId=889> at or call **703-324-1460, TTY 711**. Deadline for 2010 orders is **April 12, 2010** or while supplies last.

