

Mason Matters!

FALL 2005

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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A Message From Supervisor Gross

Special Interest Articles:

- **Traffic Violations: Not a Fine Way to Make a Point**
- **Libraries Build Communities**
- **Fairfax County Program Introduces Program for Disposal of Oversized Items**
- **FCPA Plans Park**

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Summer seemed busier this year, and a look at upcoming Mason District activities indicates that autumn will be equally as busy. I hope you had an enjoyable summer break and are ready to participate in many new and interesting opportunities.

Mason District's Fall Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 29, at 7:00 p.m. at the Main Community Room in the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. The town meeting will focus on emergency preparedness in our Community and will feature five county agency representatives, including Bill MacKay, deputy coordinator, Office of Emergency Management, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, director, Fairfax County Health Department. In today's society, emergency preparedness is more than merely knowing what to do in case of a tornado, hurricane, blizzard, or fire. How do you prepare for the unexpected? Do you know what you should do in the first 24 - 72 hours of a disaster? Do you have a plan? Do you have an emergency kit for home and office? For your vehicle? Find out what kinds of preparations you need to make now for future emergencies at the Town Meeting on the 29th. I look forward to seeing you there.

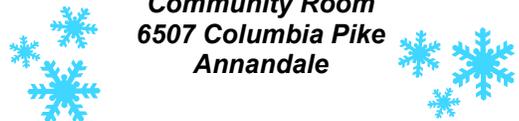


Mason District's Area Plan Review (APR) process is underway, with a 20-person task force appointed to review nominations for changes to Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan for land use. The Plan Review process occurs about every five years, but the current "hot" real estate market is creating greater interest in potential changes to the Plan language. The APR Task Force will review proposed nominations and hear public comment on them on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center. Nominations will be accepted until September 21, 2005. For more information about the APR process or task force meetings, please call 703-256-7717.

Other events of interest include the 26th Annual Mason District Park Festival on Saturday, September 24, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. (raindate Sunday, September 25, same hours). I hope you also will mark your calendars for the 10th Annual Mason District Holiday Town Gathering, a celebration of the holiday season, on Thursday, December 1, at the Mason District Governmental Center at 7:30 p.m. The J.E.B. Stuart High School Jazz Band will entertain, there will be a few speeches, door prizes, and refreshments. See the Coming Attractions section of this newsletter for additional family events this fall.

It is a privilege to represent you and all of Mason District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on any county-related issue of importance to you.

**Supervisor Penny Gross invites you
to the Mason District
Holiday Town Gathering
Thursday, December 1, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Mason District Governmental Center
Community Room
6507 Columbia Pike
Annandale**



LOOK FOR **MASON MATTERS!** THE TELEVISION SHOW
on Cable Channel 16
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7:30 P.M.
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M.

Traffic and Parking Violations: Not a Fine Way to Make a Point



The fall school term is underway and with the number of drivers on the road increasing every year, it is important to know the rules of the road. It is not always clear what is illegal and what is not.

Here are some of the top traffic and parking laws that may surprise you:

- 1) Passing on the right: \$30 fine + processing fee. Three points on DMV record for three years.
- 2) Rolling through a stop sign: \$30 fine + processing fee. Four points on DMV record for three years.
- 3) Running traffic light or failure to obey traffic light: \$100 fine + processing fee. Four points on DMV record for three years.
- 4) Parking with right side (wheels) not to curb: \$20 fine.
- 5) Blocking or parked within 10 ft. of a public or private driveway: \$40 fine.
- 6) Parking in a Residential Permit Parking District (RPPD) without an RPPD decal or parking in violation of an official sign (no parking, fire lane, etc.): \$40 fine.
- 7) Parking for Certain Purposes Prohibited (For Sale): \$40 fine.

For information about fines and demerit points associated with moving violations laws, visit the Virginia DMV's Driver Services Web site at www.dmvnow.com/webdoc/citizen/drivers/index.asp. For information about traffic fines in Fairfax County, visit the Traffic Infractions and Uniform Fine Schedule, run by the General District Court at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/gendist/paylist.htm.

Libraries Build Communities

**By Liz Clements, Mason District
Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees**

Every time you walk into any of our 21 public libraries, you can see things happening, great and small, that improve our quality of life. Our libraries in Mason District, George Mason Regional in Annandale, and Thomas Jefferson and Woodrow Wilson in Falls Church, give us the opportunity to connect in a real way with our community.

In our libraries we have books to inform and entertain; spur discussions and explain "how to;" tapes to get us through rush hour and beyond; Internet stations connect us to a wealth of information, whether we are school children (remember our on-line tutoring) or adults with a need for life-long learning; links to foreign language news, practice civil service exams...the list goes on. Our libraries have meeting places for community groups; children's programs; ethnic celebrations; small spaces to meet clients; places for tutoring, talking, and studying; volunteer opportunities and used book sales.

The Board of Supervisors indicated that one of its primary goals is ensuring quality education by effectively meeting student and community needs. Your library is a community center for education, information, recreation, and a key link in a network of institutions helping to achieve the county's educational goals.

Since Sundays are the busiest times in the eight regional libraries - a prime time for students - it would be important to extend the same service hours for the 12 community libraries that are presently closed on Sundays. My colleagues and I on the Library Board will be working toward achieving this goal.

To everyone who enjoys George Mason, Thomas Jefferson, and Woodrow Wilson Libraries, thanks for helping us build and grow our community in Mason District. If you haven't visited our libraries lately, come and bring your family. They're too good to miss, and they belong to you!

Fairfax County Introduces Program for Disposal of Oversized Bulk Items

Do you know your options for disposal of lumber, stoves, refrigerators, washing machines, couches, and other oversized items? If yours is one of the 43,000 households in Fairfax County Sanitary District areas, then you have county pick-up, and qualify for the county's new Special Collection program, designed to collect objects too large to fit in an ordinary garbage truck. Residents receive four free special collections per year, which are limited to six cubic yards of material, or what would fit in the back of a pick-up truck. If you have more than six cubic yards of material or need more than four special collections per year, you may use the new MegaBulk program, designed to accommodate larger amounts of waste. The fee for this new program is \$5 per cubic yard for loose material and \$10 per cubic yard for logs/wood larger than six inches. To schedule a special collection, or for more information, call (703) 802-3322, TTY 711. If you would like to receive e-mail reminders about weather-related service changes, holiday hours, and more, subscribe to the e-update list at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/subscribe.htm. If you do not have county trash collection, please contact your private hauler for information about scheduling a special pick-up for oversized materials.



Community Notes

- If your home needs general maintenance work, such as painting, wall repairs, yard work, handrails or grab bar installation, but you cannot afford these services, Rebuilding Together may be able to help you. All work is done free by teams of volunteers. Priority is given to senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and families with children. To qualify for the program, you must own and live in the home to be repaired. The income level for an individual must not exceed \$31,250; for each additional person in the home, the income level increases by \$3,500 - \$4,500. To obtain an application, call RPJ Housing at 703-528-5606, ext. 10, or visit their Web site at www.rpjhousing.org. Completed applications must be received by January 31, 2006.
- If you have tables, chairs, chests of drawers, or sofas (no sofa beds, please) that you would like to donate, please contact the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) at 703-256-9513 to schedule a pick up. All donations will be picked up and delivered directly to a family in need.
- Fire Prevention Week will be observed from October 9 - 15. Fire Stations throughout Mason District will host a Fire Prevention Open House on Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information call 703-246-3801.

Mason District's Fall Town Meeting

Thursday, September 29 at 7 p.m.
Mason District Governmental Center
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Join your neighbors and friends and learn about Emergency Preparedness in our Community. Representatives from five county agencies will inform you about Fairfax County's Initiatives at the local and regional level, and how you can keep your family safe before, during, and after an emergency situation.

SUPERVISOR PENELOPE A. "PENNY" GROSS
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ANNANDALE, VA 22003

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Visit us on the Web:
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
mason](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason)



Mason Matters! The Newsletter to Keep YOU Informed