

Mason Matters!

FALL 2006

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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A Message From Supervisor Gross

Special Interest Articles:

- **Land Use News**
- **Revitalization Resources Available for Community Use**
- **Vehicle Decals Abolished**
- **Coming Attractions**

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Welcome to the Fall 2006 edition of Mason Matters! Summer flew by, vacations are over, and students, pre-school to college, are returning to the classroom. In Mason District, construction began on a brand new building to replace the existing Glasgow Middle School. Mason District students attending Woodson High School will find their building under renovation, at long last, and conversations are underway to address conditions at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, also in Mason District.



Summer also brought incredible wind and rain storms that damaged homes and property in Mason District. To provide assistance, a multi-day emergency service center was set up at the Mason District Governmental Center in June and July. County personnel from the Health Department, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, and Risk Management worked with dozens of residents who had severe storm damage and costly losses to their homes.

Storm damage often generates extra or special need for removal of fallen trees, debris, and damaged household items, usually lumped together as solid or hazardous waste. In Fairfax County, some households are served by county trash collection; other households are served by private trash collectors. The Mason District Fall Town Meeting, on Wednesday, October 4, at Glasgow Middle School, will focus on Solid Waste Collection Programs by both public and private providers. Changes in various programs — recycling, special pick-ups, household trash vs. business trash, etc. — will be presented for discussion. There will be a question and answer segment after presentations by a panel of experts, and I hope you will plan to attend.

In addition to the Mason District Fall Town Meeting, several other traditional Mason District events are on the schedule. The 27th Annual Mason District Park Festival will be held on Saturday, September 30, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. (Rain date is Sunday, October 1, same hours). The Annandale Fall Festival Parade, sponsored by the Annandale Chamber of Commerce, will step off at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 28. The Mason District Holiday Town Gathering will be on Wednesday, December 6, from 7:30 until 9:00 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center. This will be the 11th year for the gathering, which features live musical entertainment and refreshments. All Mason District residents are invited to attend.

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 about any county-related issue of importance to you.

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.
DAILY ON THE WEB AT WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON

Land Use News



Area Plan Review - The 2005-2006 Area Plan Review (APR) process has ended, and through active community participation, significant changes to the Comprehensive Plan were made. Within Mason District, the most significant changes occurred within the commercial revitalization districts in Annandale, and the Bailey's Crossroads/Seven Corners areas. The comprehensive plan was altered in certain instances to add valued amenities for the surrounding communities, to enhance the commercial viability of each revitalization district, and to ensure Mason District maintains its competitive edge in relation to surrounding areas. Not only did the APR process grant the Board of Supervisors an opportunity to enhance Mason District's commercial revitalization districts, but it also provided the opportunity to further solidify the character of our valued residential neighborhoods. The results of the APR process will be posted on the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning's Web site, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz, where you may learn more about the rezoning process and other steps that each APR nomination must take to be implemented.

Urban Land Institute Study of Bailey's Crossroads - Within the urban landscape of Mason District, Bailey's Crossroads is relied upon by our community for commercial, residential, employment, and recreational opportunities. To maintain Bailey's Crossroads' status as a regional destination, development within the area must be more community oriented, and some challenges are being addressed.

The Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development has arranged for the Urban Land Institute (ULI), one of the premier urban planning think-tank organizations in the country, to conduct an in-depth survey in the Bailey's Crossroads area. ULI will assemble a panel of local and nationwide experts in their respective fields to study Bailey's Crossroads with the goals of outlining a long-term plan for development in the area. The ULI study will begin in mid-November and will include opportunities for community involvement. The final presentation by the ULI panel, which is scheduled tentatively for November 16, also will be open to the public. Due to the timing of the ULI study, it may be able to offer valuable guidance for the APR nominations within Bailey's Crossroads.

More information about ULI and the study is available through ULI's Web site, www.uli.org, or by attending the monthly meetings of the Bailey's Crossroads Revitalization Corporation, which are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale.

Revitalization Resources to be Available for Community Use

The Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development is spearheading the creation of a revitalization room at the Mason District Governmental Center. The revitalization room will include a library with resources relating to the development process, and also will include many resources about current revitalization efforts within Mason District. The room will be available for use by the public and is designed to facilitate and better organize community and private sector involvement in the revitalization process. It also will provide a meeting space for community members, business interests, and Fairfax County officials to build relationships that are vital to redevelopment efforts.

For interested citizens, the revitalization room can serve as a way to discover what revitalization efforts are underway, and also will serve as a forum for citizens to provide valuable insight as to what revitalization efforts they believe should be considered and instituted. For the local business community, the revitalization room can inform about the many ways businesses can benefit from operating within one of Mason Districts revitalization districts and offer valuable insight as to what needs of the business community are underserved, and what the business community is willing to do to improve the revitalization district.



Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly help Fairfax County firefighters and paramedics with their 2006 Muscular Dystrophy Association "Fill the Boot" fund drive to benefit "Jerry's Kids." In 2005, firefighters collected \$454,000 in our community.



Remember to change the batteries in smoke alarms throughout your home when you set your clocks back one hour on October 29.

Community Notes

- Glasgow Middle School (GMS) offers an after-school program on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and soon will expand the program to Tuesday from 3 - 6 p.m. The GMS program provides safe, structured, engaging, and enriching activities for students that include instructional, recreational, athletic, and community service activities. To volunteer your time and make a difference in a child's life, please call Marita Duran, GMS After-School Program Specialist/Building Use Coordinator at 703-813-8773, or send an e-mail to marita.duran@fcps.edu.
- If you have beds, 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 to a family in need. ACCA also needs a Meals-on-Wheels Program Coordinator for the Bailey's/Culmore area. Please call 703-256-9513 for more information.
- Fire Prevention Week will be observed from October 8 - 14. Fire Stations throughout Mason District will host a Fire Prevention Open House on Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information call 703-246-3801.

Mason District's Fall Town Meeting

Wednesday, October 4 at 7 p.m.
Glasgow Middle School
4101 Fairfax Parkway, Alexandria

Join your neighbors and friends and learn about solid waste collection programs by public and private providers, and changes to programs such as recycling, special pick-ups, and household trash vs. business trash. A panel of experts will answer questions after their presentations.

SUPERVISOR PENELOPE A. "PENNY" GROSS
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

PRST STD
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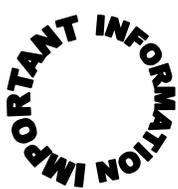
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Mason Matters! The Newsletter to Keep YOU Informed