

Mason Matters!

Fall 2007

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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A Message From Supervisor Gross

Special Interest Articles:

- **Land Use News**
- **County Leaf Collection Tips**
- **Route 50 Pedestrian Bridge Construction Begins**
- **Traffic and Parking Rules Refresher**

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

The candidate debates are over, election signs gone from our roadways, and the mail carrier's burden is lighter now that the flurry of campaign mailings has ceased. The votes were counted and certified, and I am humbled and delighted that you have selected me to represent Mason District on the Board of Supervisors for another term.

The Board will welcome three new members in January: Jeff McKay, who succeeds the retiring Lee District Supervisor, Dana Kauffman; Patrick Herrity, replacing Springfield District Supervisor Elaine McConnell, who is retiring after 24 years on the Board; and John Foust, who won election as Dranesville District Supervisor over incumbent Joan DuBois. The Board of Supervisors meets on Mondays at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax. Board meetings are open to the public, and also are aired live on Channel 16. You also can watch Board meetings live through streaming video on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov, and you can catch up on any previous Board session at your convenience, also on-line.



Fairfax County will face a number of challenges in the coming year. The FY2009 budget is expected to be a tight one as revenue sources are expected to be flat in a cooling housing market after several years of overheated values. The forecasted budget deficit for state revenues likely will have a deleterious effect on the county budget as state payments for some services are reduced. Higher energy prices will affect Fairfax County residents just as they do across the nation. Local issues – maintaining our excellent public school system, revitalizing older areas, managing growth and transportation, and achieving greater understanding and communication among our residents – will continue to drive the Board's agenda.

Before we get to the New Year, however, we need to close out the old one. I hope you will plan to join Mason District neighbors and friends for the 12th Annual Holiday Town Gathering on Thursday, December 6, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The evening will feature live musical entertainment, refreshments, door prizes, and only a little "speech-making." Please mark your calendars for this annual event. I look forward to seeing you there.

It is a privilege to represent Mason District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Please do not hesitate to contact my office about any county-related matter 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

Annandale Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony and Mixer

Friday, December 7, 5 - 8 p.m.

Toll House Park (Annandale Road at Little River Turnpike)

Celebrate the holidays with your friends at this event.

Mixer to follow at Burke and Herbert Bank, 4535 Annandale Road.

Music and refreshments provided. For more information, call 703-256-7232.



Land Use News

Bailey's Crossroads Continues to Attract Businesses and Residents to Fairfax County

Despite dramatic fluctuations in the national real estate market, Bailey's Crossroads continues to attract residents, developers, and businesses. During the past two years there has been a flurry of development proposals for Bailey's Crossroads, all intending to capitalize on the strong local economy and the areas proximity to Washington, D.C. You can review the development proposals, and other activities in the area, by logging on to the Bailey's Crossroads Revitalization Corporation's new Web site at www.baileyscrossroads.org.

Annandale Group Proposes Redevelopment Ideas

As one of Northern Virginia's most historic commercial centers, Annandale continues to draw interest from prospective residents and businesses. Recently, a plan to rezone the property, between Annandale Road and Markham Street that now has a bowling alley, was submitted to the county. The rezoning application proposes a mixed-use development with retail space on the first floor, public space, residential units, and office space. Details of the plan will become available as the Department of Planning and Zoning processes the application. Another potential idea for Annandale, developed by the Annandale Central Business District Planning Committee (ACBDPC), is a Cultural Center, which would provide more public space, while highlighting the wealth of cultural diversity in the community. The ACBDPC assisted the county in developing the vision. A thorough report about the potential for a cultural center will be made available in the coming months. For more information about revitalization in Annandale, visit www.fcrevit.org/annandale.

Boarding Houses Strike Out

Last April, the Board of Supervisors created a "Strike Team" to address the destabilizing effect that boarding houses can have on older neighborhoods across the county. The Enhanced Code Enforcement teams include zoning inspectors, the fire marshal, building code inspectors, the County Attorney's Office, and the Sheriff's Office. After preliminary training, the strike team began its work in early June.

There are 160 cases under investigation countywide and the Strike Team issued 1910 Notices of Violation or Corrective Work Orders, mostly for zoning, property maintenance, or building code violations. A total of 48 cases were closed or referred to Zoning for other issues. Nineteen cases, including five in Mason District, were referred to the Commonwealth's Attorney for criminal prosecution, and 24 cases are being pursued for civil prosecution through the County Attorney's office. Seven of those cases to date are in Mason District. At least one landlord has been jailed.

Not every zoning complaint goes to the strike team. Cases are prioritized by Zoning Enforcement and illegal boarding houses are the special focus of the team right now. If you have concerns about possible boarding houses in your neighborhood, you may call my office and report the specific street address, or call Zoning Enforcement at 703/324-1300 with the same information.

County Leaf Collection Tips



The yearly task of leaf raking and collection has begun for Mason District residents. If you live in a county sanitation district, please follow these tips to allow the leaf crews to work in your neighborhood efficiently:

- Place leaves no further than four feet from the edge of the streetline.
- Please remove all debris from leaves prior to set-out.
- Leaves raked out after the last scheduled round of collection will not be picked up.
- Do not block streets or pile leaves over storm drains or ditches.
- Do not block leaf piles with cars or any type of equipment that could limit accessibility to the pile or create hazardous conditions.
- Do not park vehicles on piles of leaves -- this is a fire hazard!
- Please remember to rake your leaves out in advance of the timeframe crews are estimated to be in your area.
- Keep up with your leaves; it could snow!
- Call the Trash/Leaf Collection Office if you have additional questions or concerns. Customer Service is available Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. by calling **703-802-3322**, TTY **711**.

Mason District leaf collection areas are 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Weather, rate of leaf-drop and other factors make it difficult to project specific collection dates. Residents can obtain **estimated** leaf collection dates by visiting the Web at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/leaf/ or reading the yellow leaf collection signs posted in participating neighborhoods. **Note: The Leaf Collection Program is for leaves only.** Leaves mixed with brush, rocks, tree trimmings, sticks or trash, etc., will be left behind. Call the Trash/Leaf Collection Office if you have additional questions or concerns. Customer Service is available Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. by calling **703-802-3322**, TTY **711**.



Yolma Torres and Arthur Lopez, who administer and coach *Nadar Por Vida (Swimming for Life)*, present Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross (center) with a commendation for her commitment to the Hispanic Youth in our Northern Virginia community in helping them to achieve their goals and to affect their lives through the sport of competitive swimming.

Route 50 Pedestrian Bridge Construction Is Underway

On October 22, officials from Fairfax County, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and members of the Willston Task Force broke ground for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Route 50, west of Patrick Henry Drive, at Seven Corners. This project was initiated by Fairfax County and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide safe pedestrian access across Route 50 to the Seven Corners Shopping Center and to a planned transit center that will be constructed by Fairfax County adjacent to the bridge.

The steel-truss bridge will have concrete decking, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant approach ramps, ornamental lighting for the ramps and six-foot, vinyl-coated, ornamental fencing on the north and south side of the road, between the service drives and Route 50. The fence will be augmented with landscaping in certain locations. The main span of the bridge will be enclosed and will have handrails and lighting for additional pedestrian safety.

The bridge will be 143 feet long with a 305-foot ramp on the north side and 271-foot ramp on the south side of Route 50. The pedestrian bridge will be located from just east of the Route 7 overpass to just west of Patrick Henry Drive. For more information about the project visit [Route 50 Arlington Boulevard - Pedestrian Bridge](#). The \$6 million bridge, funded by VDOT through its Hazard Elimination Safety Program, is expected to be completed in Fall 2008. VDOT awarded the construction contract to A&W Contracting Corporation.



Route 50 Pedestrian Bridge groundbreaking ceremony participants were (L-R) Al Brown, president of A&W Contracting; Brian Downie, vice president of development, Saul Centers, Inc.; House Delegate Bob Hull (D-38th District); Dr. Kim Cook, founding member of the Willston Task Force and president of the Vietnamese Resettlement Association; Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly (D); Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross (D); Rafael Cabello, adult ESL student at the Willston Multicultural Center; William Cuttler, Assistant District Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation; Captain Mike Dittmer, commander of the Mason Station, Fairfax County Police Department; and Mary Ellen Keaton, founding member of the Willston Task Force. The Willston Task Force is a community-based group that worked with Supervisor Gross on pedestrian safety and improved traffic flow projects in the Willston community.

Need a Notary Public?

Notary Services are available in Supervisor Gross' office during business hours. For more information, call 703-256-7717.



A Short Refresher About Traffic and Parking Rules

Most of us think of ourselves as good drivers and believe we observe all the rules of the road, but do we? Here are some traffic and parking laws to be aware of - some may seem obvious, others may surprise you:



- 1) Improperly passing to the right of a vehicle proceeding in same direction - (3 points on DMV record for 3 years).
Statute: 46.2-841; Fine: \$30; Processing Fee: \$62; Total: \$92
- 2) Failure to stop and yield when approaching intersection of highway controlled by stop sign - (4 points on DMV record for 3 years).
Statute: 46.2-821; Fine: \$30; Processing Fee: \$62; Total: \$92
- 3) Failure to obey traffic lights - (4 points on DMV record for 3 years).
Statute: 46.2-833; Fine: \$100; Processing Fee: \$62; Total: \$162
- 4) Improper change of course after giving signal.
Statute: 46.2-850; Fine: \$30; Processing Fee: \$62; Total: \$92
- 5) Parking on wrong side of two-way roads (right wheels not to curb):
- Vehicles must be parked facing direction of travel lane.
- Vehicles may park on either side (in the proper travel direction) of a one-way road if not otherwise prohibited.
Statute: 46.2-889; Fine: \$20; Processing Fee: \$62; Total: \$82

- 6) Motor vehicle following another more closely than is reasonable or prudent. Statute: 46.2-816; Fine: \$30; Processing Fee: \$62; Total: \$92
- 7) Improperly crossing double solid line. Statute: 46.2-804 (6); Fine: \$30; Processing Fee: \$62; Total: \$92
- 8) Speeding in a Residential District. Statute: 46.2-878.2; Fine: \$7 per mile over speed limit plus \$200; Processing Fee: \$62
Total: Fine as calculated above plus the processing fee
- 9) Impeding traffic by slow speed. Statute: 46.2-877; Fine: \$30; Processing Fee: \$62; Total: \$92

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.

Community Notes

- AARP volunteers will provide free tax help to residents from February to April at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Dates and times will be available in January. All returns will be filed electronically. For more information about AARP Tax-Aide, visit www.aarp.org/money/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.
- The Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) needs chests of drawers, and twin, full, and queen size mattresses and box springs. Please contact ACCA at 703-256-9513 to schedule a pick up. All donations will be picked up and delivered to a family in need.
- The Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter's wish list of donated items includes hats, scarves, coats, gloves, socks, thermal underwear (large, extra large, double extra large), insulated boots (men's and women's), toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, combs, brushes), towels, washcloths, umbrellas, sleeping bags/cots, and aspirin. For more information, contact James Enos-Edu at 703-820-7621.

Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering



Thursday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.
Mason District Governmental Center
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale



Start the holiday season by enjoying an informal evening of music and refreshments with your family, friends, and neighbors.
You may also win a door prize!

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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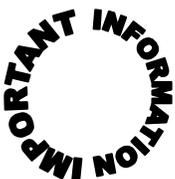
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Visit us on the Web:
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
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