

Mason Matters!

Fall 2008

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

MASON GOVERNMENTAL CENTER, 6507 COLUMBIA PIKE, ANNANDALE, VA 22003

PHONE: 703/256-7717

FAX: 703/354-8419

E-MAIL: mason@fairfaxcounty.gov

A Message From Supervisor Gross

Special Interest Articles:

- **Absentee Voting Information**
- **New Principals and Upcoming School Renovations Make the Grade**
- **2008 Parks and Park Facilities Bond Referendum**
- **Bicycle Security Tips for Riders**
- **Coming Attractions**

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

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Summer seemed to fly by this year, and Fairfax County residents are getting back into regular routines of school, work, and community activities. Part of that preparation for the Board of Supervisors is a thorough study of the county's Lines of Business (LOBs), a two-year process that began in September 2007. LOBs reviews began in 1993, followed by similar studies in 1996 and 2001. The LOBs provide residents and Board members alike with a comprehensive array of programs and services provided by Fairfax County, as well as their cost and implications related to service delivery. This year, the LOBs exercise will be used as part of the annual budget process to identify potential modification, reductions, or elimination of selective programs. Information about LOBs is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/2008_LOBs.html. The LOBs documents are organized into four volumes, comprising 1,268 pages detailing 310 discrete LOBs. Printed copies are available for review in most Fairfax County public libraries.



The Mason District Fall Town Meeting will feature a panel discussion about LOBs with Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova, our Budget Chairman, and Susan Datta, director of Management and Budget. A question and answer period will provide residents with an opportunity to make recommendations of their own about services they deem necessary, or expendable. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2008, at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. The meeting will begin promptly at 7 p.m., and will adjourn at 8:45 p.m. (the Library closes at 9 p.m.). I look forward to seeing you there.

Mason District is getting another synthetic turf field! Design is underway to install a synthetic turf surface at the Bailey's Elementary School field in the Bailey's Crossroads area of Mason District. The Bailey's field is one of the most heavily used in Fairfax County, and was evaluated by Community and Recreation Services (CRS) as the field with the greatest need for attention and renovation. Funding for the project is allocated from the successful passage of the 2006 Park Bond referendum, and I was able to get the Bailey's project moved up to a 12-month schedule instead of the original 30 month time frame. Once installed, the renovated field will be available for both school use and public use; after-school scheduling is handled by CRS.

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.

Fire Prevention Week will be observed from October 5-11. Fire Stations throughout Mason District will host Fire Prevention Open Houses on Saturday, October 11, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, call 703-246-3801.



Also, when you set your clocks back one hour on November 2 to return to standard time, change the batteries in smoke alarms throughout your home.

Absentee Voting for the General Election on November 4

In-person absentee voting at the Office of Elections, located at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323 in Fairfax, will be held Monday through Friday, September 19 to October 14 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Office closed Monday, October 13 in observance of Columbus Day.) Extended hours offered from October 15 to October 31, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 4, 11, 18, 25, and November 1.

From October 15 to November 1, registered voters also may vote absentee in person at the satellite location in the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, Monday-Friday, between 1 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please bring a current and valid form of identification.

The deadline to apply by mail or fax for an absentee ballot is October 28 at 5 p.m. All mailed absentee ballots MUST be received at the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. on November 4 to be counted.

Students attending college **outside** the metropolitan area may call the registrar's office at 703-222-0776 to request an application for an absentee ballot. When the registrar receives the completed ballot application, a ballot will be sent directly to the student. Students' completed ballots must be received in the Electoral Board Office before 7 p.m. on Election Day.

First-time voters are urged to contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections for instructions. Information is available on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb, or call 703-222-0776. **The deadline to register to vote is October 6.**



(Center) Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly, and Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross join officials from the Virginia Department of Transportation and the City of Fairfax Council at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 17 for the Route 236 Spot Improvements Project. The project was completed three and one-half months ahead of schedule and under budget.



New Principals and School Renovations Make the Grade

By Kaye Kory
School Board Member for Mason District

Happy New School Year! Several Mason District schools have new principals. Bren Mar Park Elementary School welcomes Ms. Anita Lynch, Camelot Elementary School welcomes Mr. Craig Gfeller, and Falls Church High School welcomes Ms. Cathy Benner.

Some of our schools also will have a different look. The old Glasgow Middle School has been completely demolished and the new fields have been laid. Woodburn Elementary School and Sleepy Hollow Elementary School are undergoing renovations. Westlawn Elementary School is planning for a renovation with additional classrooms. Next year you will see that construction begin. Please welcome our new principals and enjoy the progress we have made toward having all Mason District schools become the schools our children deserve.

2008 Parks and Park Facilities Bond Referendum on the Ballot

Bonds are the principal means by which Fairfax County raises funds to address on-going needs in the county without raising taxes. There is a proposed bond referendum on the ballot for the November 4, 2008 election.

The Fairfax County Park Authority adopted criteria for evaluating land acquisitions based on availability, demonstrated need, and park development, as supported by the community. The 2008 Bond would fund the Fairfax County Park Acquisition Program and Park Development Program, such as land acquisition, park development, facilities renovations, and stewardship projects. Park development projects include athletic fields, trails, and other new park facilities. Bond proceeds also will be used to repair and renovate aging park facilities, building systems, indoor swimming pools, and other park amenities. Stewardship projects protect natural and cultural resources, e.g. wetland and stream restorations, dam repairs, and historic building preservation.

The 2008 Bond also would allocate \$12 million to Fairfax County's share of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's Capital Improvement Program, which provides land and facilities to address the needs of Northern Virginia residents. The proposed plan includes projects at all regional parks, a variety of new facilities, improvements to existing parks, and land and easement acquisition. For more information about the 2008 Bond Referendum, log-on to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond, or call the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187.

Bicycle Security Tips Keeps Riders' Wheels Turning

Current fuel prices are encouraging residents to use alternative means of transportation. Rather than driving, lots of people are now riding bikes to work, to run errands, to exercise, and ultimately to save money. However, with this growing trend, there also is a need to secure the bicycle when not in use. Here are some tips that may help:

- Use a U-type lock to secure a bicycle. For added security, use two different styles of locks simultaneously, such as a U-type lock and a chain lock.
- Always keep a bicycle locked in a garage, shed or to a stationary object. Never leave a bicycle in the yard.
- When away from home, do not leave a bicycle in concealed or isolated locations overnight. Make sure that it is visible to passersby.
- If the bicycle has quick-release wheels, be sure to lock both wheels and the frame to a secure, stationary object. Locking the wheels and frame helps to prevent parts from being stolen.
- Remove detachable items from a bicycle such as pumps, packs, lights, etc. before leaving it unattended.
- Remember to record the bicycle serial number and keep it in a safe place. This number can help the police identify and track down a missing bicycle.

For more information about crime prevention, contact your district police station, or log on to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crime_prev.htm. For information about cycling in Fairfax County, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/.



Saturday, September 27

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(Rain Date: Sunday, September 28)

- Specialty Foods • Crafters • Live Entertainment
- Hayrides • Children's Rides • Pony Rides
- Police and Fire Demonstrations • Environmental Displays

Mason District Park is located at 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale, take Beltway Exit 52B (Little River Turnpike, Rt. 236) east two miles to left at John Marr Drive and right on Columbia Pike to park entrance on the right.

For Information, call 703-941-1730 (TTY: 703-803-3354)



Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross represented Fairfax County at the National Association of Counties annual conference where she shared the county's experience with recycling eWaste during a workshop entitled "Waste Not, Want Not: How to Prepare for New Challenges in Recycling."

Photo by David Hathcox
Courtesy of the National Association of Counties



Coming Attractions

- The Friends of Green Spring, in collaboration with the Virginia Native Plant Society and Washington Gardener Magazine, will sponsor the Green Spring Gardens Fall Festival on Saturday, September 27, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. Proceeds help acquire plants for the gardens and expand Green Spring's educational programs. For more information, call 703-642-5173, or visit www.greenspring.org.
- The Friends of the George Mason Regional Library will host its popular semi-annual book sale on October 16, 5 - 9 p.m.; October 17, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; October 18, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and October 19, 12 - 5 p.m. Audio books, music, and videos will also be available. The book sale will be at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.
- The Annandale Fall Festival Parade will be held on Saturday, October 25, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information, or to participate in the parade, contact the Annandale Chamber of Commerce at 703-256-7232. Immediately after the parade, the Annandale Fall Festival will be held in the parking lot of Safeway on Little River Turnpike. Participate in the **Taste of Annandale**; judge the best food of the day from many different cuisines. Activities for children, a talent show, entertainment by costumed dancers and much more. For more information, see Festival at www.annandalechamber.com.
- Supervisor Penny Gross invites you to the Mason District Holiday Town Gathering on Wednesday, December 3, 7 - 9 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Enjoy refreshments and music of the season with your family, friends, and neighbors.



Community Notes

➤ Fairfax County is scheduling 20 community dialogue meetings this fall to obtain comments from residents about the FY 2010 Budget. Meetings in Mason District are on Saturday, September 20, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale; and Thursday, November 13, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, at the Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive in Falls Church, and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Register to attend a meeting, or submit comments on-line, by logging onto the Web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget, or call the Budget Hotline at 703-324-9400, TTY 711

➤ AARP volunteers will provide free tax help to residents from February to April at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. **The schedule will be available in January.** All returns will be filed electronically. For information about AARP Tax-Aide, visit www.aarp.org/money/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.

Mason District's Fall Town Meeting Wednesday, October 22 at 7 p.m.

George Mason Regional Library
7001 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, Virginia

Join your neighbors and learn about the Lines of Business, what they are and how they relate to the Fairfax County Budget. Budget Chairman and Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova, and Susan Datta, director of Management and Budget, will answer questions after their presentations.

SUPERVISOR PENELOPE A. "PENNY" GROSS
MASON DISTRICT GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
6507 COLUMBIA PIKE
ANNANDALE, VA 22003

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

6507 Columbia Pike
Annandale, VA 22003

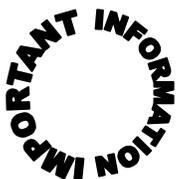
PHONE:
703/256-7717

FAX:
703/354-8419

E-MAIL:
mason@fairfaxcounty.gov

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

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 722
MERRIFIELD VA



Mason Matters! The Newsletter to Keep YOU Informed