

Mason Matters!

FALL 2011

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:

- *Land Use News*
- *Preparedness Tips and Resources for a Safe Winter*
- *Fairfax Water to Replace Water Main along Gallows Road*
- *Deter Crime and Walk Safely by Reporting Street Light Outages*
- *Coming Attractions*
- *Community Notes*

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Welcome to the Fall 2011 print edition of **Mason Matters!** Our newsletter is published a little later this year because of the election cycle. Thank you to all the voters who exercised their civic duty and participated in our local elections. For the first time in decades, the election brought no changes to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; all 10 incumbents were re-elected, including Chairman Sharon Bulova. The swearing-in ceremony for the Board is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, December 13. I deeply appreciate your confidence and support and look forward to representing you on the Board in the coming term.



The Board of Supervisors meets on Tuesdays at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax. Board meetings are open to the public, and also are aired live on Channel 16. You can watch Board meetings live through streaming video on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov, and you can review previous Board sessions at your convenience, also on-line.

As the leaves turn red and gold and crunch under our feet, the temperature becomes crisper, and wisps of smoke emanate from chimneys, thoughts turn to holidays and time spent with family and friends. Please take some time to review your home security and safety plan. Several recent fires in Fairfax County were started by children playing with matches, or from improperly installed flues. Last summer's earthquake may have caused unseen damage to chimneys, so please be careful as you stoke those autumn hearth fires. Additional information about holiday safety and security will be featured in the December television edition of **Mason Matters!**, with my guests, Battalion Chief Carlton Burkhammer and Crime Prevention Officer Brendan Murphy. **Mason Matters!** airs on Channel 16 on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Mason District's BRAC 133 Task Force has been working diligently this past year to analyze potential effects of traffic and parking on local neighborhood streets resulting from full occupancy of the U.S. Department of Defense building on Seminary Road in the City of Alexandria. I want to thank the members of the Task Force for their hard work, which will continue for the next several months as the BRAC building workforce increases. Information about the Mason District BRAC 133 Task Force meetings, and its activities to date, may be accessed on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason/brac.

It is my pleasure once again to host the 16th Annual Mason District Holiday Town Gathering, on Thursday, December 1, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Live performances by talented local musicians, refreshments, and door prize drawings will be featured as we kick off the holiday season. I look forward to seeing you there.



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

During the past year, Fairfax County staff began development of a Countywide Bicycle Transportation Plan for bicycle and pedestrian improvements across the county. The plan will determine what steps should be taken to make improvements to the existing transportation system. Bicycle transportation improvements being evaluated can include, but are not limited to, bike lane proposals, crosswalk and intersection improvements, and travel lane realignments. Fairfax County staff wants your help in identifying areas in your community in need of improvements.



Beginning this fall through next spring, Fairfax County staff will hold public outreach meetings in each of the eight different bicycle planning areas. Mason District residents who live inside the beltway are located in the Annandale Planning Area. Mason District residents who live outside the beltway are in the Central Fairfax Planning Area. A public workshop for the Annandale area will be held February 13-16, 2012, at a location to be determined. A public workshop for the Central Fairfax Planning Area will be held March 26-29, 2012 at a location to be determined. In the meantime, please begin thinking about where bicycle-related improvements are needed in our community! More information can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/county_bike_master_plan.htm.

Transit Center Nearing Completion at Seven Corners

Exciting pedestrian and transit improvements in the Mason District are scheduled for completion by the end of this year. The Seven Corners Transit Center, located at Seven Corners Shopping Center, will host three new bus hubs, and six bus shelters. The Columbia Pike Sidewalk Project, located on the south side of Columbia Pike at Powell Lane, will provide pedestrian access from Powell Lane to the Holmes Run Trail network in Holmes Run Stream Valley Park. Pedestrian connectivity and improvement projects are being planned for other parts of the district, including Annandale, Bailey's Crossroads, and Seven Corners.



Revitalization Groups to Consider Land Use Applications



Land use applications are heard at the monthly Mason District Land Use Committee meetings. Visit the Mason District Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason/md_cal.htm for meeting agendas for the Mason District Land Use Committee, the Bailey's Crossroads Revitalization Corporation, and the Annandale Central Business District Planning Committee. For more

information about one or more of these groups, please call the Office of Supervisor Gross at 703-256-7717.

Preparedness Tips and Resources for a Safe Winter

In anticipation of inclement winter weather in our area, here are some important telephone numbers and Web sites to keep handy, in the event of an emergency:

- 9-1-1, for police, fire, and rescue (life-threatening emergencies only, please)
- Public Safety Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT): 1-800-FOR-ROAD; novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov (snow removal and overall road maintenance)
- Road Conditions and Traffic: 5-1-1; www.511virginia.org
- Fairfax County Emergency Information Line: 703-817-7771, TTY 711
- Fairfax County Stormwater Management Division: 703-877-2800
- Fairfax County Wastewater Collection Division Trouble Response Center: 703-323-1211
- Cox Customer Service: 703-378-8422
- Dominion Virginia Power: 1-866-DOM-HELP (1-866-366-4357)
- Power Outage Information: www.dom.com/storm-center
- Fairfax Water: 703-698-5800
- Verizon Customer Service: 1-800-VERIZON (837-4966)
- Washington Gas: 1-800-752-7520

Remember to keep cellular phones and portable electronics **fully charged**. Change batteries in flashlights and smoke detectors. Keep a shovel, blanket, water, and snacks in your car. Additional emergency preparedness information can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare. If you have questions about emergency preparedness, contact the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management at 703-324-2362, TTY 711. Please take precautions now to keep yourself, your family, and pets safe.

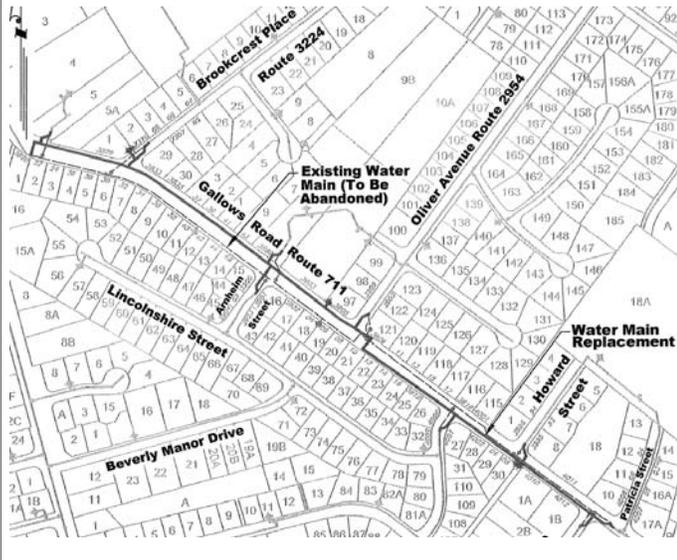


State and local officials, representatives from the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, the Virginia Department of Transportation, Transurban and Fluor-Lane celebrated the newly finished Little River Turnpike bridge during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in August. The Capital Beltway I-495 HOT Lanes project is more than 75 percent complete, and approaching its final year of construction, with completion in late 2012.

Fairfax Water to Replace Gallows Road Water Main

Within the next several weeks, Fairfax Water's contractor, Casper Colosimo and Son, Inc., will begin work to replace an existing water main on Gallows Road, between Westminster School and Patricia Street in Annandale. The water main is made from stronger, longer-lasting materials, which will not be susceptible to breaks. Water service to homeowners in the affected area may be interrupted for short periods of time during construction. Homeowners will have access to their driveways, and traffic flow will be maintained on Gallows Road.

When the water main replacement is completed, the road will be repaved by the contractor in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation's requirements. Completion of the work, including road repaving, is anticipated for spring 2012. Questions or concerns about this project may be directed to Mr. Jerry Scott at 703-289-6351. Below is a map illustrating the location of the work.



Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross welcomed Girl Scout Troop 5655 as they prepared to step-off for the Annandale Fall Festival Parade in October. The Troop was well-stocked with candy for the public as part of the Halloween festivities during the parade and at the Fall Festival.

Photograph courtesy of Julie M. Strandlie

Deter Crime and Walk Safely by Reporting Street Light Outages

In Mason District, most street lights are maintained by Dominion Virginia Power. If a streetlight is inoperable in your neighborhood, please write down the pole number and report it by calling 1-888-667-3000 (toll free). If the pole number is not attainable, provide the specific location, such as a property address, or a description, such as "second pole at the southwest corner of the intersection of Columbia Pike at Lincolnia Road." A work order number may be provided after the report is complete. If the streetlight is not repaired within two weeks of the report, please send the work order number by e-mail to Supervisor Gross at mason@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call her office at 703-256-7717.



Coming Attractions

- Supervisor Gross invites you to the Mason District Holiday Town Gathering on Thursday, December 1 at 7 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Enjoy a feature performance by local musicians, tasty refreshments, and welcome the holiday season with your neighbors and friends. You may even win a door prize! For more information, call 703-256-7717.
- The Annandale Tree Lighting Ceremony and Mixer is scheduled for Friday, December 2, 5 - 7 p.m. at Toll House Park (Annandale Road at Little River Turnpike). Celebrate the holidays with your neighbors at this community event. Mixer to follow at Burke and Herbert Bank, 4535 Annandale Road. Music and refreshments provided. For more information, call 703-256-7232, or visit www.annandalechamber.com.
- Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street in Annandale, offers 3-5 year-old children and their adults (quiet siblings welcome) exciting Monday mornings, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. with a different topic each week. Share nature activities, stories and crafts leading to outdoor exploration with a naturalist. Dress for weather. Call the nature center for weekly topics at 703-941-1065, or visit the Web site to register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hiddenoaks.



Community Notes

➤ AARP volunteers will return in 2012 to provide free tax help to residents from February 1 to April 16 at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. **The schedule is: Mondays and Thursdays 1- 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** All returns will be filed electronically. For more information about AARP Tax Aide, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.

➤ ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action) is a volunteer organization serving needy neighbors in dire need of furniture. Please call 703-256-9513 and ACCA will pick up your donated furniture and give you a tax deductible receipt. The most needed items are mattresses/box springs (single, double, or queen size) sofas (not sleeper types), kitchen/dining room tables, and chairs, chests of drawers/dressers, coffee tables, end tables, and microwave ovens.

➤ Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels and medical appointment transportation volunteers to help older adults and adults with disabilities. For more information or to volunteer, call Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, e-mail VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov, or log-on to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices (click on Volunteer Opportunities).

Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering

Thursday, December 1 at 7 p.m.
Main Community Room
Mason District Governmental Center
6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale

Start the holiday season by enjoying an informal evening of music and refreshments with your family, friends, and neighbors.
Sign-in when you arrive, and you may win a door prize!

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; TTY 711

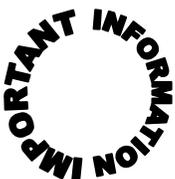
FAX:
703/354-8419

E-MAIL:
mason@fairfaxcounty.gov

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
mason](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason)

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