

Mason Matters!

SPRING 2012

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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A Message From Supervisor Gross

Special Interest Articles:

- **Spotlight by Starlight Concert Schedule**
- **Jaguars Hold Annual Mulch Sale**
- **Land Use News**
- **Document Shredding Returns to Mason District in May**
- **Coming Attractions**
- **Community Notes**

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Nearly every Spring edition of *Mason Matters!* in past years has contained a discussion about the county budget cycle, and winter weather woes. Since winter weather seems to have missed us for the most part, we can concentrate on budget. County Executive Anthony Griffin, who has announced his retirement after 22 years of exemplary service to Fairfax County, presented his last budget to the Board of Supervisors on February 28. Fiscal Year 2013 promises to be another tight budget year, as the total revenue tax base increase from residential and non-residential properties is less than three percent. That uptick, combined with higher job growth, stable unemployment rates, Triple-A bond ratings, and an increase in building permits, positions the county for continued success as the economic recovery moves forward. Thoughtful, deliberate discussions with the community will help Board members make decisions, balancing available revenues with increasing demands for service.



The Mason District Budget Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 14, in the Main Community Room of the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. The meeting begins at 7 p.m., and will feature a presentation by the County Executive, followed by a question and answer period. Public hearings about the proposed budget are scheduled for April 10, 11, and 12 in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. If you would like to present testimony about the budget in person, please call 703-324-3151 (TTY 711), or to access the form to sign-up to speak, log-on to the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm to schedule a time slot. To request special accommodations or alternative information formats, call 703-324-2391 (TTY 711). Please allow five work days in advance of events to make necessary arrangements. Budget mark-up is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, with adoption at the May 1 Board meeting.

A constituent contacted me recently about the number of dogs running off-leash on county trails and in parks. Leashes are not optional in our parks; failure to keep your dog on a leash can result in a fine of up to \$250. The same goes for failure to clean up after your pet. Licensed dogs may enjoy running and socializing with other dogs in an off-leash dog area, also known as a dog park, but must be leashed and under control at all other times. Pet owners: please be thoughtful of other people and our parks and trails when you exercise your beloved companion animal.

Spring is a busy time in Mason District, and summer follows quickly behind. Please check the many community events listed elsewhere in this newsletter and get them on your calendar now. Of special interest are the free summer concerts, available this year at Mason District Park and Ossian Hall Park. See you at a show!

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Mason District Supervisor, and I hope you will let me know whenever my staff and I can be of assistance to you. My office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and we are ready to help with any county-related matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

LOOK FOR **MASON MATTERS!** THE TELEVISION SHOW
on Cable Channel 16
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7 P.M.
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M.
DAILY ON THE WEB AT WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON

Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concerts



Mason District Park

Spotlight by Starlight is a free summer concert series presented by the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Mason District Park. All performances at the Newton W. Edwards Amphitheatre at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale, are on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday beginning at 7:30 p.m. Performances for children on Saturday (not listed) begin at 10 a.m. Shows are cancelled in the event of rain. The schedule is subject to change. For rain cancellation, call 703-324-SHOW (7469). For a complete and updated listing, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances after May 1, 2012.

June

- 1 The Big Chimney Band (Rock/Pop)
- 3 City of Fairfax "Concert Band" (Big Band)
- 6 CAISO Steel Band (Steel Drum Band)
- 8 Blue Sky 5 (Swing)
- 10 The U.S. Air Force Band "Airmen of Note" (Big Band Jazz)
- 13 Patty Reese Band (Blues/Roots Rock)
- 15 The Justin Trawick Group (Urban Folk Rock)
- 17 Washington Balalaika Orchestra (Russian)
- 20 The Tom Cunningham Orchestra (Big Band)
- 22 Billy Coulter (Roots/Rock)
- 24 National Concert Band (Big Band)
- 27 Flo Anito Band (Jazz/Pop)
- 29 Ann Rabson Band (Blues)

July

- 1 Kings Park Band (Big Band)
- 6 Latin Ballet of Virginia (Caribbean Dance/Music)
- 8 The Holmes Brothers (Americana/Blues/ Soul)
- 11 Rootstone Jug Band (Jug Band)
- 13 John Jorgenson Quintet (Gypsy Jazz)
- 15 The NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra (Pop)
- 18 Thrillbillys (Rockabilly)
- 20 Wil Gravatt Band (Texas Swing and Country)
- 22 The Capitol Steps (Satirical Revue)
- 25 Le Hotclub de Biglick (Jazz)
- 27 Robin and Linda Williams & Their Fine Group (Traditional Country)
- 29 NAYAS (Reggae/Ska)
- 29 Little Red & The Renegades (Zydeco)
- 31 Falls Church Concert Band (Big Band)

August

- 1 King Soul (Blues)
- 3 Tom Paxton (Folk)
- 5 Buckwheat Zydeco (Zydeco)
- 8 Hall Brothers (Rockabilly)
- 10 Hula Monsters (Swing/Hawaiian)
- 12 Clifton Williams and the Blue James Band (Roots/Rock/Reggae)
- 15 Bruce Ewan (Blues)
- 17 Wayne Taylor Band (Bluegrass)
- 19 The United States Army Band "Blues Jazz Ensemble"
- 22 David Bach Consort (Jazz)
- 24 Urban Funk & Esencia Tropics (Salsa/Merengue)
- 26 The Capital Focus Jazz Band (Jazz)
- 29 Afrobop Alliance (Caribbean Jazz)
- 31 Alt Washingtonia (Bavarian)



Ossian Hall Park

Ossian Hall Park, located at 7900 heritage Drive in Annandale, is the newest concert venue in the Mason District. All performances are scheduled for Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

June

- 2 Taiwanese Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)
- 9 The Aloha Boys (Hawaiian)
- 16 The United States Air Force Band "Max Impact" (Rock)
- 30 Chinese Cultural Heritage Night

July

- 7 The United States Air Force "Singing Sergeants"
- 14 Irish Cultural Heritage Night
- 21 South East Asia 'Fashion' Night
- 28 Bolivian Cultural Heritage Night

August

- 4 Vietnamese Cultural Heritage Night
- 11 Korean Cultural Heritage Night
- 18 Elikeh (West African Music)
- 25 Peruvian Cultural Heritage Night



(L-R) Glen Forest Elementary School Principal Cynthia Choate and Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross take a short break during the successful Garment Garage Grand Opening on February 11 at the school. The Glen Forest PTA sponsors this event, which will be held monthly on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. For more information, or to donate items, call Glen Forest Elementary School at 703-578-8000.

Jaguars Hold Annual Mulch Sale

Falls Church High School's Annual Mulch Sale is in progress, and proceeds fund the All-Night Graduation Celebration. Three cubic foot bags of double shredded hardwood mulch \$5 each. Orders of 15 bags or more are delivered free within a five-mile radius. Orders of 14 bags or less must be picked up at Falls Church High School, 7521 Jaguar Trail in Falls Church. Order deadline is April 9; delivery date is April 14; and mulch pickup at the school is April 14 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Make checks payable to FCHS All-Night Graduation Celebration; \$2 of every bag, and donations, are tax deductible. For more information, call 703-560-9596, or send an e-mail to jenescott8@aol.com.



Land Use News

New and exciting improvements are coming to Mason District this spring. Construction is anticipated to begin soon for the redevelopment of the Westlawn Shopping Center, located at the intersection of Annandale Road and Arlington Boulevard. The plan approved last fall by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors retains the Bill Page Honda dealership, retail space, and adds a pharmacy and a bank. An improved façade and pedestrian facilities also will enhance this busy intersection.

➤ The United States Postal Service will be relocating the Mosby Branch Post Office within the Mason District. The new location is anticipated to be within one-half mile of its current location. Stay tuned for additional information as it becomes available.

➤ Sidewalk connectivity remains a priority in Mason District. Sidewalk construction along the south side of Columbia Pike, from the Annandale United Methodist Church to the intersection of Gallows Road, will provide pedestrian access from downtown Annandale to Mason District Park. Other walkway projects going to construction include connections along Leesburg Pike, from Peace Valley Lane toward Patrick Henry Drive in the Seven Corners area; and in Lincolnia, construction of a walkway on the south side of Montrose Street will complete missing pedestrian facilities between Holmes Middle School and Weyanoke Elementary School.

➤ Two elementary schools are completing renovation and new construction, respectively. Students currently at Beech Tree Elementary, 3401 Beech Tree Lane, are enjoying their renovated school. In the fall, the newly named Mason Crest Elementary School, 3705 Crest Drive, will open for classes.



(L-R) On January 27, 2012, Property Manager for Saul Centers Leeann Feltman, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Hunter Mill District Supervisor and Metro Board Chairman Cathy Hudgins, and Metro General Manager Richard Sarles, officially opened the Seven Corners Transit Center, adjacent to the Seven Corners Shopping Center at Leesburg Pike and Arlington Boulevard.

Photo Courtesy of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Mark Your Calendar for Free Document Shredding Event

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will host a document shredding event at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, on Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Additional information about this and other recycling events is available by visiting the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/intro-programs.htm.

Coming Attractions

➤ The Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center will host an Easter Egg Hunt on April 7, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (rain or shine) at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Children, ages 1-8, may participate; admission is \$7 per child. **Children must bring their own baskets.** The start times are: 10:15 a.m. for ages 1-2; 10:45 a.m. for ages 3-4; 11:15 a.m. for ages 5-6; and 11:45 a.m. for ages 7-8. Moon bounce and other activities separate hunts by age groups. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes, call 703-222-4664, and walk-in registration available.

➤ The Friends of the George Mason Regional Library will hold its popular, semi-annual book sale on April 19, 5 - 9 p.m.; April 20, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; April 21, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and April 22, 12 - 5 p.m. Books for all ages, plus CDs, videos, audio books and rare books. The book sale will be at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

➤ The 2012 Spring Culmore Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Participants also will commemorate the 10th Anniversary of this community event. For more information and to sign up, please call the Woodrow Wilson Library at 703-820-8774, ext. 4, visit www.facebook.com/culmorecleanupday, or send an e-mail to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov.

➤ The Annandale Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Fairfax County Police Department, will host its **Annual Bed Race to Benefit Special Olympics on May 5 at 10 a.m.** along John Marr Drive. Applications to participate will be available on March 1 at www.annandalechamber.com. For more information about this event, call 703-256-7232, send an e-mail to info@AnnandaleChamber.com.

➤ The 30th Annual Celebrate Fairfax, our county's largest festival, will be held June 8 - 10 at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. Enjoy concerts, a laser show, fireworks, and more. Free parking and shuttle buses are available. Call 703-324-3247 or visit www.celebratefairfax.org for more information.

Community Notes

- AARP volunteers are providing free tax help to residents until April 17 at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Walk-in service is available on 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 are filed electronically. Please bring: last year's tax return, a photo ID, and Social Security Card. Visit www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669 for information about AARP Tax-Aide.
- The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to commit four hours a week for one year to help residents of nursing and assisted living facilities advocate for their rights, resolve conflicts, and improve their quality of life. Volunteers set their own schedule, and receive training and support. Visits occur between 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. on weekdays. Apply now for the Spring 2012 Training (March 26, 28, and April 5). Call 703-324-5861 or 703-324-5422; TTY 703-449-1186, or send an e-mail to lisa.callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.
- Mason District Little League (MDLL) provides baseball and teeball instruction for girls and boys ages 4-12 years old. Registration is now open and adult volunteers are needed to coach and umpire. More information can be found at www.mdll.org, or e-mail mdllorg@yahoo.com.
- ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action) is a volunteer organization serving 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 microwaves.

Mason District's Spring Town Meeting

Wednesday, March 14 at 7 p.m.

Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room
6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale

Join your neighbors and friends to talk about the proposed FY2013 Fairfax County Budget. County Executive Tony Griffin will join Supervisor Gross as guest panelist, and he will answer questions about the budget after his presentation.

SUPERVISOR PENELOPE A. "PENNY" GROSS
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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