

Mason Matters!

SPRING 2015

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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A Message From Supervisor Gross

Special Interest Articles:

- *Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concerts*
- *Fairfax County to Host 2015 World Police and Fire Games*
- *Land Use News*
- *Site Selected for New Inova Center for Personalized Health*
- *Woodrow Wilson Library Reopens*
- *Coming Attractions*
- *Community Notes*
- *Budget Town Meeting March 19*

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Think Spring! This winter's brutally cold temperatures and sometimes "surprise" snowfalls have nearly everyone wishing for buds and blossoms. The weather has slowed some current walkway and pedestrian improvements, but Mason District has had a lot of planning and construction activity, as you may have noticed.

The newly renovated and expanded Woodrow Wilson Library in Bailey's Crossroads will celebrate its grand re-opening on **Saturday, March 21**, at 10 a.m. With its completion, all three public library branches in Mason District now are updated with modern technology, more efficient building systems, and quiet rooms for study and reading. The Bailey's Upper Elementary School for Arts and Science in Seven Corners repurposed a vacant office building into the first vertical school in Fairfax County. The award-winning design is a hit with students, parents, and teachers alike, and addressed significant overcrowding at the original site. A playground and gym are planned for installation later this year. Fire Station 10, severely damaged by record snowfalls in 2010, re-opened on Columbia Pike last October with a celebratory community open house.

Intersection improvements, such as signalization for pedestrians and traffic management include Annandale Road and South Street (completed); Powell Lane at Columbia Pike, and Annandale Road at Graham Road/Hickory Hill Road (new signals coming), are the result of community requests for safer crossings. New pedestrian walkway connections were completed along Route 7 and in Annandale, and the new Elmdale Road walkway near the Pinecrest Golf Course is nearing completion.

County Executive Ed Long presented his proposed FY16 budget to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, February 17, a day, ironically, when schools and county facilities were closed due to a heavy snowfall. The proposed budget recommends a school transfer of slightly more than \$2 billion, or 52.8% of the county's General Fund. The proposed budget is balanced with no recommended increase in the real estate tax rate. There was a moderate increase in housing values across much of Mason District, reflecting the slow recovery from the Great Recession. The Mason District Budget Town Meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 19**, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike. Mr. Long will discuss his recommendations, followed by a question and answer period. I look forward to seeing you there!

Increased demand for assistance means that food pantries in the region are running low on supplies. In partnership with my office, the **Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) is continuing its food drive through April 6**. Especially needed are canned goods (especially soups), rice, dried beans, flour, sugar, masa flour, crackers, cereal, peanut butter and jams or jelly, and other non-perishable food items. You can bring your non-perishable food donations for the ACCA Food Pantry to my office at any time until April 6, and leave them in the bin outside my office door at the Mason District Governmental Center. All donations will assist local families during their time of need. You also can bring your non-perishable donations to the Budget Town Meeting on March 19. Monetary donations also are welcomed to provide milk, and fresh fruits and vegetables, for needy families. Make your check payable to ACCA, designate "Food Pantry" in the memo line, and mail it to ACCA, 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia 22003. Thank you for your generous support of the ACCA Food Pantry.



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

Land Use News



Comprehensive Plan Authorized for Graham Park Plaza

- At its January 27 meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Supervisor Gross' motion that the Board authorize an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan for Graham Park Plaza (formerly Loehmann's Plaza) to study future land uses with attention to transportation, while planning for a high quality design. While this shopping center is recognized by the Loehmann's Plaza name, the company filed for bankruptcy and now is closed, and the shopping center's name has reflected the change in anchor. The decline of Loehmann's, and other tenants in this shopping center, has initiated the desire to repurpose this property beyond the shopping center's name into a new neighborhood destination and center. This process will consist of community meetings (to be coordinated by Supervisor Gross' office), Fairfax County planning analysis, presentation to the Mason District Land Use Committee, and ultimately Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors public hearings. The community meetings process is not anticipated to begin for several months.



Southeast Quadrant

- The Board of Supervisors amended the Comprehensive Plan on January 13 to further the revitalization vision for Bailey's Crossroads. The Comprehensive Plan now allows for a range of public uses, including a possible school, along Columbia Pike, between Williams Lane (near Radley Acura) and Moncure Avenue. This option allows for a public-private partnership. Public meetings for a rezoning of this site will begin soon.



Seven Corners/Willston Visioning Task Force

- The Task Force's Special Working Group is finalizing its recommendations for Opportunity Area C (a.k.a. Sears Site) in preparation for public hearings this spring before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Information about this long-term planning effort to revitalize the Seven Corners' commercial centers and enhance transportation will be available on the Mason District Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason/sevencorners.



(L-R) Inova Health System Board of Trustees Member, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, joins CEO Knox Singleton, Governor Terry McAuliffe, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, and philanthropist Dwight Schar, during the February announcement that the new Inova Center for Personalized Health will place Fairfax County at the forefront of biomedical research, genomic science and bioinformatics, and individualized therapy to create the world's leading center for translational cancer research and patient care. The Inova Health System Board of Trustees is primarily responsible for oversight of Inova's finances, strategic planning and management.

Photo Courtesy of Inova Health System

Woodrow Wilson Library Reopens

The Woodrow Wilson Library, located at 6101 Knollwood Drive in Falls Church, will host a grand opening of its renovated building on Saturday, March 21 at 10 a.m. The renovated library, which opened originally in 1967, will have multiple meeting rooms with additional capacity, modernized facilities, 24 public computers, a children's area, and 93 parking spaces. A library bond referendum approved by Fairfax County residents in 2004 funded the renovations. For more information about the project and upcoming reopening, visit the Fairfax County Public Library's Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ww.

Coming Attractions

- **Culmore Multicultural Day 2015** will be held on Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive in Falls Church. Enjoy live music, folkloric dancers, children's activities, and much more. Admission is free. For more information, call the Fairfax County Park Authority at 703-324-8514 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.
- The Friends of the **George Mason Regional Library** will co-host the ever-popular, **semi-annual book sale** on April 23, 5 - 9 p.m.; April 24, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; April 25, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and April 26, 12 - 5 p.m. Books for all ages, plus CDs, videos, audio books and rare books are featured. The book sale will be at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.
- The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will host a **Document Shredding** event on March 21, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and a **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** on May 16, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. More information about these and other recycling events are available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling, or call 703-324-5230; TTY 711.
- The **George Mason Regional Library**, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale, will host a day-long celebration of its **60th anniversary** on Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Begin the day with a tree-planting ceremony, followed by performers, live music, and other fun activities throughout the day for the whole family. For more information, call 703-256-3800, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gm/.

Community Notes

➤ **AARP** volunteers are providing **free tax help** to residents now **until Wednesday, April 15** 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. For more information, visit the Web site at www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.

➤ The ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action) is a volunteer organization serving neighbors in dire need, especially for 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.

➤ The Fairfax County Public Library's Access Services offers the Talking Book Program, which provides residents who have poor vision, are blind, or have limited options for recreation during the winter, thousands of book titles, more than 40 popular magazines, and includes the necessary equipment, instructions, free home delivery, and an orientation if needed. For more information and an application, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/as/talkingbook.htm, call Access Services at 703-324-8380; TTY 703-324-8365, or send an e-mail to access@fairfaxcounty.gov.

➤ The Spring 2015 Culmore Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 25**, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. To sign up and for more information, visit www.facebook.com/culmorecleanupday, or send an e-mail to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov. Raise awareness and keep our community clean.

Mason District's Budget Town Meeting

Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m.

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

Join your neighbors and Supervisor Gross in welcoming County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr., who will answer your questions about the proposed FY2016 Fairfax County Budget, and his two-year approach to budget projections.

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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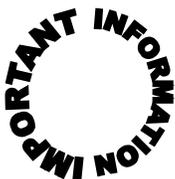
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