

Mason Matters!

SPRING 2017

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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A Message From Supervisor Gross

Special Interest Articles:

- **Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concerts**
- **Helpful Tax Tips and Resources**
- **Land Use News**
- **Native Seedling Sale Features a Fall Color Palette**
- **Express Lanes Community Grants Deadline is March 31**
- **Coming Attractions**
- **Community Notes**
- **Budget Town Meeting March 9**

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Happy Spring! Although winter doesn't end officially until mid-March, the traditional springtime county budget exercise is upon us. County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr., released his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018 on Valentine's Day, February 14. Whether there is much love for his proposals remains to be determined, as the Board of Supervisors examines the recommendations, conducts town meetings and public hearings to receive public comment, and makes adjustments, before adopting a revised, and balanced, budget on May 2. **Budget public hearings** are scheduled for **April 4, 5, and 6** at the County Government Center in Fairfax.

By law, Fairfax County cannot operate a deficit; our budget must be balanced every year. Public education remains the Board's number one priority. More than half of the county's General Fund is transferred for school operations. The county's sources of revenue are constrained severely by the General Assembly, and places a substantial reliance on the real estate taxpayer for schools, public safety, parks, libraries, human services, and all the other programs that Fairfax County residents cherish.

The annual **Mason District Budget Town Meeting** will be held on Thursday, **March 9, at 7 p.m.**, at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. County Executive Ed Long will discuss his budget recommendations and take questions from the attendees. I look forward to seeing you there.

This year marks the 275th anniversary of the founding of Fairfax County. In 1742, Fairfax County had fewer than 5000 people, and British rule provided governance for the colonies. The 275th anniversary celebration will continue throughout 2017, with the signature celebration held on Saturday, June 17, at the historic courthouse in central Fairfax. Living history, entertainment, special presentations, and family friendly activities will be the order of the day, so mark your calendars now for this historic event.

This 275th anniversary year is a good time to visit historic sites in the county, for little to no cost or gasoline. Though perhaps not quite 275 years old, Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall are fine examples of the agricultural economy that created Fairfax County, and a visit to the historic Manor House at Green Spring Gardens Park provides a peek into late 18th century living. For more information about historic sites and other fun activities in Fairfax, log on to www.fxva.com/275/.

The **2017 Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative** will be conducted on **Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.**, at all Fairfax County Police Stations, including the Mason, Franconia, and West Springfield stations, which have patrol responsibilities for the Mason Magisterial District. Unused or expired prescription medicines may be dropped off, and the service is free and anonymous. Please bring prescription medications in their original containers, and cross off any personal identifying information.

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. until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and we are ready to help with any county-related matter.



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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the name.



Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concerts Schedule

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. For rain cancellation, call 703-324-SHOW (7469). The schedule is subject to change. For a complete and updated listing, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances after May 1, 2017.

JUNE

- 18 City of Fairfax "Concert Band" (Concert Band)
- 21 The Cathedral Brass (Symphonic Brass)
- 23 Rachel B (Soulful Pop)
- 25 The NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra (Summer Pops)
- 28 The United States Navy - Country Current (Country)
- 30 Jonathan Edwards (Folk)

JULY

- 2 City of Falls Church Concert Band (Concert Band)
- 5 Eric King and the Thin Line (Texas Blues)
- 7 Brass 5 (Light Classical/Jazz)
- 9 National Concert Band of America (Big Band)
- 12 Forlorn Strangers (Indi Grass)
- 14 Harpeth Rising (Chambergrass/Folk Trio)
- 16 The Capitol Steps (Satirical Revue)
- 19 Ted Garber (Americana)
- 21 Chaise Lounge Band (Jazz/Lounge/Swing)
- 23 Kings Park Band (Concert Band)
- 26 Planet Full of Blues (Electric Blues Rock)
- 28 The Richard Williams Trio (Ragtime / Boogie Woogie)
- 30 TBD

AUGUST

- 2 Natty Beaux (Swing)
- 4 April Verch (Folk/Roots/Step-dancing)
- 6 Machaya (Klezmer)
- 9 Cold Chocolate (Bluegrass /folk/funk)
- 11 TBD
- 13 Bobby Thompson & Revelator Hill (Blues/Rock)
- 16 Hard Swimmin' Fish (Blues/Jazz/Funk)
- 18 The David Kitchen Band (Pop/Rock)
- 20 Washington Balalaika Orchestra (Russian)
- 23 Gallagher, Stang, Lewis and Bullock with Eddie Hartness (Acoustic Rock)
- 25 Tom Paxton (Folk)

Ossian Hall Park



Featuring music and dance from around the world, Ossian Hall Park is located at 7900 Heritage Drive in Annandale. All performances are scheduled for Saturdays at 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair.

JUNE

- 24 Chinese Cultural Heritage Night

JULY

- 1 Irish Cultural Heritage Night "Irish Breakfast Band"
- 8 Peruvian Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)
- 15 Bavarian Night "Alt Washingtonia Schuhplattler Verein" (Dance/ Music)
- 22 Bolivian Cultural Heritage Night "Comite Pro-Bolivia" (Dance/ Music)
- 29 The United States Army Blues (Music)

AUGUST

- 5 Vietnamese Cultural Heritage Night "Prelude Chamber Ensemble" (Dance/ Music)
- 12 Taiwanese Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/ Music)
- 19 TBD

Helpful Tax Tips and Resources

Free Fairfax County resources are available to assist you with taxes, ranging from tax information to income tax preparation. It is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/tax-season-resources-available-to-help-you/. Some helpful links are:

- [Tips for Choosing a Tax Preparer;](#)
- [Information for People with Disabilities;](#)
- [State Income Tax Information;](#) and
- [Tax Forms and Information From the Library.](#)

Residents without Internet access, or who may have questions, may call the following numbers for assistance.

Federal Income Tax

(Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.) 1-800-829-1040

Virginia State Income Tax

(Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.) 1-804-367-8031

Fairfax County Taxes

(Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) 703-222-8234; TTY 711

Please note that each Virginia jurisdiction is assigned a unique locality code number. The Fairfax County locality code is **059** for all residents in Fairfax County (including those with a Falls Church mailing or postal address, who live in Fairfax County). Not sure if you live in the City of Falls Church or the County of Fairfax? For confirmation, call 703-248-5450, or send an e-mail to commissioner@fallschurchva.gov. Information about tax filing for individuals and businesses is available at the Virginia Department of Taxation's Web site, www.tax.virginia.gov, or by calling 1-804-367-8031, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Subscribe to Mason District's Monthly E-Newsletter

If someone you know would like to receive news and updates about Fairfax County services, and events in Mason District, send an e-mail to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-256-7717, to subscribe to the Mason District E-Newsletter.

Land Use News

Lincolnia Planning District Task Force Formed - The Lincolnia area forms the southeast section of Mason District, adjacent to I-395 and the City of Alexandria. A current Planning Study of the area is entering its second phase (the first phase was an editorial update to Comprehensive Plan language for the area), which will review proposed changes to Comprehensive Plan guidance (Plan Amendment 2013-I-L1) for the [Lincolnia Planning District](#).

How should the areas near the intersection of Little River Turnpike (Route 236) and Beauregard Street be transformed for the future? A community task force for the Lincolnia Planning District Study was formed to seek public insight. Among the items the Task Force will consider is whether to designate a portion of the area as a Community Business Center (CBC) within the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan.

The Task Force will conduct a series of public meetings, beginning in February through late spring. Information about the study and the meeting schedule, is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia. Subscribe to the Lincolnia Planning District Study email at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia/listservsubscribe.htm. Questions may be directed to Faheem Darab, senior planner, by calling 703-324-1351, or by e-mail at faheem.darab@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Bike Lanes Proposed for Mason District - The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is expected to repave several roads in Mason District during the summer. County staff is considering the installation of bike lane striping along the full length of Hummer Road and on Sleepy Hollow Road, from Bay Tree Lane to Columbia Pike. These improvements would be done at no expense to Fairfax County. Information about these Mason District bicycle infrastructure improvements, and other transportation news in Fairfax County, are available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/masondistrictbikelanes2017.htm, by e-mail at DOTBicyclePrograms@fairfaxcounty.gov, or calling 703-877-5600.

Native Seedling Sale Features A Fall Color Palette



The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is featuring a collection of trees and shrubs that will add color to gardens in the fall. The Bare-Root Shrub and Small Tree package includes Gray Dogwood, New Jersey Tea, Common Ninebark, Arrowwood Viburnum, and Smooth Sumac for \$16.95. The Bare-Root Trees package includes Northern Red Oak, Sassafras, and Bald Cypress for \$11.95. Both collections include two of each varieties of plantings. Streamline the process by paying online with a credit card or debit card (if necessary, orders may be placed by phone and checks accepted).

A full, non-refundable payment must accompany **orders received by Wednesday, April 12**, or while supplies last. A confirmation receipt will be provided, and directions to the pickup site at the Fairfax County Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road in Annandale. Orders may be **picked up on Friday, April 21, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., or Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. - noon**. To see images of the plantings, and to order, visit the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm, send an e-mail to conservationdistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-1460; TTY 711 for more information.

Express Lanes Community Grant Program Accepting Applications

Transurban is active in our local community through its Express Lanes Grant Programs, which support organizations that sustain, enhance, or protect the local environment and communities. Transurban is accepting grant applications for the next quarter for its 495 and 95 Express Lanes Grant Program, and its 395 Express Lanes Grant Program. The next application deadline is **March 31, 2017**. For more information and to apply, visit the 495 and 95 Express Lanes Community Grant Program Web site at www.expresslanes.com/grant-program, or the 395 Express Lanes Community Grant Program Web site www.395expresslanes.com/grant-program. Questions? Call 571-419-6104.



Coming Attractions

➤ **Culmore Multicultural Day 2017** will be held on **Saturday, April 22**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive in Falls Church. This year's theme is "Healthy Environment, Healthy Community." Enjoy live music, folkloric dancers, children's activities, and more. For more information, call the Fairfax County Park Authority at 703-324-8514; TTY 703-803-3354, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

➤ The Annandale (Station 8) and Bailey's Crossroads (Station 10) Volunteer Fire Departments invite you to an **All You Can Eat Crab Leg and Shrimp Feast** on **Saturday, April 22**, 2 - 5 p.m. at the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7128 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Tickets available online at www.avfd.org or www.bxrvfd.org. For more information, call 703-941-1328, or send an e-mail to crabfeast@avfd.org.

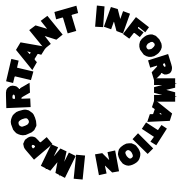
➤ The Friends of the **George Mason Regional Library** will co-host the popular, **semi-annual book sale** on **Thursday, April 27**, 3 - 9 p.m.; **Friday, April 28**, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; **Saturday, April 29**, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and **Sunday, April 30**, 12 - 5 p.m. Books for all ages, music CDs, videos, audio books and rare books are featured. The book sale will be at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. For more information, call 703-813-6616 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gm/.

➤ The **36th Annual Celebrate Fairfax**, our county's largest festival, will be held **June 9 - 11** at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. Free parking and shuttles provided for easy access to the festival entrance. For information, a schedule of performances, and tickets, visit www.celebratefairfax.org, or call 703-324-3247.



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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Mason Matters! The Newsletter to Keep YOU Informed

Community Notes

- AARP volunteers currently are providing free tax help to residents until **Tuesday, April 18** 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. A **Travel Team** is available to assist with preparation of forms **for residents with disabilities**, who cannot leave their homes, by calling 703-594-6576. For more information about AARP Tax Aide, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.
- The spring 2017 Culmore Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m. to Noon**. Join your friends in cleaning our Culmore neighborhood. For more information, please visit Culmore Cleanup Day on Facebook, www.facebook.com/culmorecleanupday, or contact Supervisor Gross' office by e-mail at mason@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-256-7717.
- The Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) is a volunteer organization serving neighbors in dire need of assistance, including 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 NBC 4 Community Shred at the Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, is scheduled for **Saturday, March 25, 2017, 8 to 11 a.m.** (vehicles must be **in line by 10:45 a.m.**). Additional 2017 shredding events in Fairfax County will be posted this spring at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling/, or call 703-324-5230; TTY 711.

Mason District's Budget Town Meeting

Thursday, March 9 at 7 p.m.

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

Supervisor Gross welcomes County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr. and Chief Financial Officer Joe Mondoro to the Mason District to answer questions about the proposed FY 2018 Fairfax County Budget, and what is anticipated for the FY 2019 budget cycle. Information about the Fairfax County Budget is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

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