

The Providence Report

Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

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8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031 * Tel. 703-560-6946 * Fax 703-207-3541 * TTY 711
Email provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov * On the Web @ www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence

Come Enjoy the Merrifield Festival!

**Saturday, October 18, 2008
from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

***Luther Jackson Middle School
3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church***

The Greater Merrifield Business Association welcomes residents to the Fourth Annual Merrifield Festival. Come and enjoy a day filled with the sights and sounds of Merrifield featuring "A Taste of Merrifield," amusement rides, moon bounce, pumpkin painting, stilt walker, Police K9 and fire truck show and tell, flu shots provided by Inova Health Systems, Inova's bloodmobile, and an Asian History Project booth. New to this year's festival is an interactive environmental booth. The booth will have useful resource materials about the various environmental impacts on our community and what residents can do as caretakers of our environment. Kids are welcome to learn fun things about critters from bugs to turtles!

The Festival is free and will be held rain or shine. Outdoor events will be moved indoors in case of rain. The Merrifield Festival is a family fun event that also kicks off the week long 2008 Providence District VolunteerFest® projects listed on page 2.

More information is available on the Merrifield Festival Web site at www.greatermerrifield.org/Festival or by calling 703-208-1161, TTY 711. ■



A message from Supervisor Smyth

As you will find in the pages of our newsletter, fall is a busy time in Providence. In the next months we are looking forward to community festivals and celebrations, volunteer and environmental projects, informational meetings, ongoing special studies, and the upcoming Area Plan Review in land use.

Beyond these events, our district will see the beginnings of major construction on a number of our roadways. Two of these projects, Vaden Drive and Eskridge Road, will come as part of new developments in the Vienna Metro Station area and the Merrifield Town Center. A third project at the Gallows/Lee Highway intersection has already begun utility relocation. Finally the HOT Lanes/I-495 project has started and will continue for approximately 5 years. All this road construction will add capacity to our transportation network in the future. But during the next few years, there will be inevitable impacts on daily travel. My office will work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to disseminate information on these projects to help commuters plan and cope better with the ensuing disruptions. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

~ Linda Smyth ~

Cell Phones for Soldiers

Fairfax County Community and Recreation Services Teen centers are collecting cell phones and accessories to benefit soldiers. The cell phones will be traded for prepaid calling minutes which can help a soldier stay in touch with family members.

More information is available on the Cell Phones for Soldiers Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec/news/cellphone.htm or by calling 703-324-4386, TTY 711. ■



2008 Providence District VolunteerFest®



Supervisor Smyth is delighted to host the 2008 Providence District VolunteerFest® on October 25 in conjunction with Volunteer Fairfax's County-wide VolunteerFest® and National Make a Difference Day. The week long 2008 Providence VolunteerFest® projects will kick off at the Fourth Annual Merrifield Festival on October 18 and continue till Saturday October 25th.

All projects will take place on October 25th, unless indicated otherwise

- **Food Drive** - Supervisor Smyth's office and Food for Others. Non perishable food donations will be received from October 13 - 22 all day at Supervisor Smyth's office at 8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax.
- **Children's Winter Clothing Collection** - Fairfax County Public Schools, Providence District School Board Member Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner and Supervisor Smyth. Donations of new hats, scarves and gloves will be accepted from October 14 - October 24 at participating schools in Providence District during school hours and all day at Supervisor Smyth's office from October 13 - October 22.
- **Used Book Sale** - Friends of the Oakton Library - Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Book sale will take place on Friday, October 24 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. & Saturday, October 25 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sunday, October 26 from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Proceeds to benefit programs at Oakton Library.
- **Child ID** - Delegate Shannon's Office (35th District) - Oakton Library 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton - Child safety, fingerprinting and identification will take place from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **Fairfax4Horses** - Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton - Information table on future public horseback riding facilities on county parkland from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **Mini Golf** - Greater Merrifield Business Association (GMBA), Police Department and Park Authority host mentorship mini golf with selected Fairfax County Public School students from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- **Neighborhood Park Projects** - Fairfax County Park Authority will host projects in parks located in Providence District. Park project details are available by calling 703-938-7532, TTY 711.
- **Adopt a Soldier** - James Lee Community Center 2855-A James Lee Street, Falls Church - kits for soldiers serving abroad will be prepared from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- **Event Promotions** - The Providence Players at James Lee Community Center Theater 2855-A James Lee Street, Falls Church with the October 10th 2008-2009 season opening production of *Rough Crossing*.

Supervisor Smyth and the 2008 Providence District VolunteerFest® Committee invite all residents to participate in this year's activities. More information is available on the 2008 VolunteerFest® Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/events.htm or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711 or on the Volunteer Fairfax Web site at www.volunteerfairfax.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=323 or by calling 703-246-3460, TTY 711. ■

General Election Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Polling locations will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, for registered voters to vote in the General Election for the offices of the President, Vice President, United States Senate and House of Representatives.

Important Election Dates

- ▶ **Friday, September 19:** In-person absentee voting begins.
- ▶ **Monday, October 6:** Last day to register to vote. Registered voters need not register again. Voters needing to verify their voter registration status are encouraged to call the General Registrar's office as early as possible prior to the October 6 voter registration deadline.
- ▶ **Tuesday, October 28:** Last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail.
- ▶ **Saturday, November 1:** Last day to vote absentee in-person.

More information is available on the Upcoming Elections Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/upcoming.htm or by calling the General Registrar's office at 703-222-0776, TTY 711. ▪

Absentee Voting

Heightened interest in the 2008 Presidential Election could result in record turnout at the polls and the possibility of longer wait times to vote. Eligible voters may apply for an absentee ballot prior to Election Day if they meet one of the qualifying reasons. These may be due to school/business/traveling out of the county, disability/illness or pregnancy, serving as a primary caregiver to a disabled individual, serving as an election officer, confinement, religious obligation, travel abroad, or a member, spouse or dependent of a uniformed service.

More information is available on the Upcoming Elections Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/absentee.htm or by calling the General Registrar's office at 703-222-0776, TTY 711. ▪

New Voter Registration Cards

The Fairfax County Office of Elections sent out to every active voter their voter registration card. Providing a new card to every voter will accomplish several objectives:

- Replace voter information cards produced prior to July 2004 that display social security numbers as the voter identification number. These new cards display the unique voter identification number assigned to each voter.
- Enable the agency to provide more accurate records for the redistricting process which will occur after the 2010 National Census.
- Provide accurate, up-to-date polling location information to all voters prior to the 2008 General Election.

Voters are requested to review their personal information on the card for accuracy. To remain a qualified registered voter, the law requires voters to notify the local voter registration office of any correction or change. Voters should submit any changes by filling out the transfer/update form on the back of the voter registration card and mail to 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, Virginia 22035 or by fax to 703-324-2205. Once the transfer/update form has been received, a new card will be mailed.

In addition to receiving the new voter registration cards, voters will also receive a brochure announcing that Fairfax County will introduce a new optical scan voting system to be used in the November General Election. Information on this new system will be available through several educational outreach programs prior to Election Day over the coming months. These outreach programs have been designed to give voters an opportunity to familiarize themselves with this new voting method.

More information is available on the Fairfax County Office of Elections Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb, by calling 703-222-0776, TTY 711 or by emailing voting@fairfaxcounty.gov. ▪



How to Dispose of Unwanted Medicines

Don't flush unused medicines because they can end up in our rivers and streams. To help protect our environment, throw unused, unwanted or expired over the counter and prescription medicines in the trash. Don't flush medicines, except when specifically instructed by the label.

The American Pharmacists Association recommends steps for safely disposing of pills and liquids. These steps will help prevent their misuse or accidental ingestion by children or pets:

1. Keep the medicines in their original container. This will help identify the contents if they are accidentally ingested.
2. Cross out your name and prescription number for safety.
3. Add some salt water to pills to start dissolving them. Add an inedible item such as dirt or ash to liquids to make it clump.
4. Seal the container and secure with duct or packing tape.
5. Put the container in the trash as close to pickup time as possible. Do not put in the recycle bin.

More information is available on the Fairfax County Health Department Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/dontflush or by calling 703-246-2411, TTY 711. ■



Boards, Authorities and Commissions

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors offers residents many opportunities to serve the community through appointments to a variety of Boards, Authorities and Commissions (BAC). These appointments allow residents to participate in the community through public service; provide a citizen's input to a public process; and promote better communities.

More information is available on the BAC Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs, by calling the Providence District Supervisor's office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711 or by sending an email to provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov. ■

Project Lifesaver

The Project Lifesaver Program assists families and caregivers of individuals with Autism, Down syndrome, Alzheimer's and related diseases and disabilities. The program has a fantastic track record of locating and returning wandering adults and children to their homes. The Sheriff's Office found its first wandering client in less than eight minutes.

The program relies on proven technology and a specially trained search and rescue team. Lifesaver clients wear a wristband that emits a silent tracking signal. When caregivers notify the Sheriff's Office that a loved one is missing, a state-of-the-art tracking system is able to track the wanderer. Using this technology, search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. On over 1,450 searches nationwide, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths, and recoveries average less than 30 minutes. The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office currently has 145 deputies trained to search for and rescue wandering clients.

Project Lifesaver has signed on 50 clients since its inception in late 2004. To sign up a loved one, custodial caregivers can complete an online form. New clients will then be placed on a wait list after completing additional materials.

What are the requirements for participating in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver?

- The client must be a resident of Fairfax County, Fairfax City, Town of Herndon or Vienna
- The client must have a legally responsible caregiver (willing) to place the client in the program
- Clients and caregiver must abide by the conditions of the program and contract
- Complete the application process

Project Lifesaver Client & Caregiver information and application are available on the Sheriff's Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/lifesaverfaqs.htm or by calling 703-246-2805, TTY 711. ■



**Oakton Library's 1st Anniversary
With Special Guest David Baldacci
Saturday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m.**

In celebration of the 1st Anniversary of the Oakton Library, the Friends of the Oakton Library will host a Reception at the Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton with special guest, David Baldacci. Tickets are required for this event.

David Baldacci is a local author with twelve consecutive *New York Times* bestsellers and co-founder of a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting literacy efforts across America.

Friends of the Oakton Library was founded in 2001 in response to community enthusiasm for the creation of a new library. The Friends facilitate and support community involvement and the library's ongoing programs. New projects will expand the library into the outdoors and create a certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat for community education and enjoyment.

More information about tickets and the 1st Anniversary Celebration is available on the Friends of the Oakton Library Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/friends/ok/okfriends.htm. ■

*Art in the Pages at Oakton Library
Dedication on September 27*



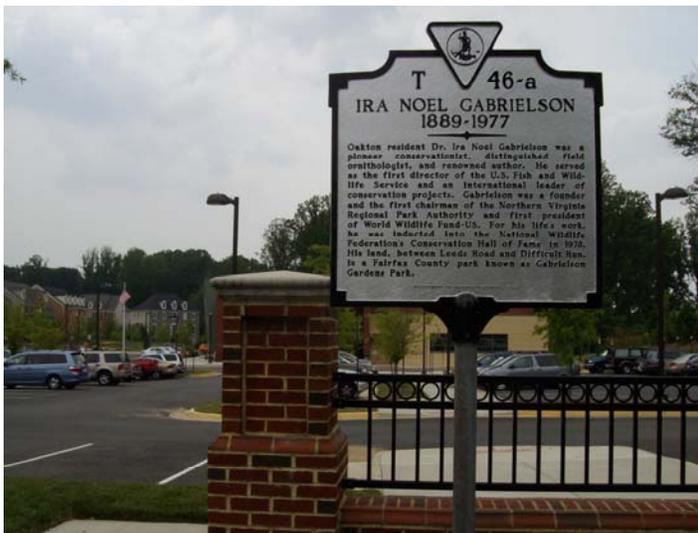
Supervisor Smyth is joined by Jerilyn Polson (Branch Manager, Oakton Library - kneeling), Tooley Milstead (1st Vice President, Friends of the Oakton Library), Linda Byrne, Judy Beattie, John Byrne (Members, Friends of the Oakton Library), Patty Reed (President, Friends of the Oakton Library) Bobby Longworth (Fairfax Library Foundation Director) and artist Kathy Vaughan (left)

Residents are invited to join the Oakton community in celebration of the 1st Anniversary of the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place on Saturday, September 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The day's event will begin with the dedication of the Art in the Pages Sculpture at 10 a.m. and continue with arts related activities for children and light refreshments.

The Fairfax Library Foundation has been working with local artists to transform blank sculptures of open books into colorful works of art displayed at county libraries. As part of this program, the Friends of the Oakton Library commissioned Kathy Vaughan to bring together highlights of history and community life for the Art in the Pages Sculpture entitled "Oakton Roots" that is currently displayed at the Oakton Library.

More information is available on the Fairfax Library Foundation Web site at www.fcplfoundation.org/programswesupport/artinthepages/default.htm or by calling 703-324-8300, TTY 711. ■

Ira Noel Gabrielson 1889 - 1977



Oakton resident Dr. Ira Noel Gabrielson was a pioneer conservationist, distinguished field ornithologist and renowned author. The Oakton community dedicated a historical marker in his honor at the corner of Hunter Mill Road and Lynnhaven Place this spring. ■

Cleaning the Environment through Landscaping – a Demonstration

Homeowners Jeanne and Victor Klingelhofer are volunteering to convert their home landscape into a demonstration area for landscape-based drainage, erosion and water quality improvement solutions. The Klingelhofers live in the Falls Hill community. Insufficient stormwater infrastructure has led to drainage and erosion problems and flooding in this community, as well as in the adjacent neighborhood of Poplar Heights.

Since 2005, a multi-stakeholder group has been working together to identify and implement solutions to the flooding and water quality concerns in these communities. The project at the Klingelhofers' property is part of this larger effort and is funded by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, the state fund supported by the sale of Chesapeake Bay license plates.

In the plan for the Klingelhofers' property are terraces for their sloping backyard to slow stormwater runoff. The finished project will also include a rain garden (a landscaped depression that captures runoff and filters it) and rain barrels, along with several other features to capture runoff and encourage infiltration into the soil.

Residents of Falls Hill and Poplar Heights are invited to participate in a free workshop at Shreveewood Elementary School on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. or on Saturday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m. Attendees will learn how to identify relatively simple landscaping solutions for common drainage concerns. They will receive a free site visit from a landscape expert and will be able to apply for mini-grants to help with landscape and drainage improvements. In addition, an open house for community residents at the Klingelhofers' on Saturday, October 18, will give residents first-hand experience with landscaping for water quality.

Registration is required for all programs. For more information and registration please contact Micah Himmel at the Providence Supervisor's office at provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ■

Stephen Paul Black Field Ground Breaking at Nottoway Park



Supervisor Smyth was joined by Chairman Gerry Connolly, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (Hunter Mill District), Ken Quincy (Providence District Park Authority Representative), Paul Baldino (Executive Director of the Park Foundation), members of the Providence District Athletic Fields Task Force, area Youth Baseball Leagues and members of the community at the ground breaking for the new synthetic turf surface on the Stephen Paul Black Field at Nottoway Park. Proffer money from the MetroWest rezoning and funds from a park bond were used to pay for the project, which is scheduled for completion by early September. ■

Herrity Building Green Roof



Supervisors Smyth, Gross, Herrity, Chairman Connolly and Supervisor Bulova pictured at the Herrity Building Green Roof Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in early August.

The Herrity Building Green Roof utilizes Low Impact Development (LID) technology that will mitigate stormwater runoff and urban heat island effect while providing recreation and aesthetic quality, life cycle return and other potential benefits.

On March 12, 2007, the Board of Supervisors adopted amendments to the Public Facilities Manual (PFM) incorporating design and construction standards, plan submission requirements and requirements for the release of bonds and conservation escrows for 6 LID practices. The 6 LID practices are pervious pavement, bioretention filters and basins (rain gardens), vegetated swales, tree box filters, vegetated roofs (green roofs), and reforestation.

While the above 6 LID components were being integrated into the design manual, the county was already engaged in various retrofit projects using this innovative technology. One of the earlier retrofits projects took place in the parking area shared by the Providence District Supervisor's office and Merrifield Fire Station 30. Completed in the fall of 2005, the project incorporated 3 LID components: rain garden, pervious pavement, and a green roof.

More information on is available on the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services' LID Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/pfm/pfm_main.htm or by calling the Code Analysis Division at 703-324-1720, TTY 711. ■

Phantom Load

A phantom load is the electricity consumed by an appliance when it is powered down but not electronically disconnected. Many off switches only put an appliance or device into standby mode. When possible, avoid phantom loads by unplugging TV cable boxes, washing machines, computers, stereos, microwaves and other electronic equipments. TV cable and satellite boxes are typically extremely wasteful of energy even when not in use. 250 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced by eliminating phantom loads per box, depending on the size of its phantom load.

Other than unplugging electronic equipment, residents can also consider the following:

- ▶ Purchase Energy Star appliances particularly models with a true on/off switch to avoid phantom loads. Any off switch that is a touch screen, soft touch button or that is remotely controlled may only switch the appliance to standby status.
- ▶ Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) for both indoor and outdoor use.

More information on is available on the Fairfax County Cool Homes Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/coolcounties/neighborhoods/my-home.htm. ■

Home Energy Audits

According to Energy Star, a home energy audit is often the first step in making a home more energy efficient. An audit can help assess how much energy a home uses and evaluate what measures a homeowner can take to improve efficiency. By implementing the recommended improvements from a home audit, the homeowner can enhance energy efficiency and lower utility bills while increasing home comfort.

Energy Star, created in 1992, is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. The partnership offers a unique opportunity to promote Energy Star Label which appears on over 50 different product categories as well as new homes, commercial buildings and industrial plants.

More information is available on the Energy Star Web site at www.energystar.gov. ■

Providence Land Use Corner

► Tysons Corner Transportation/ Urban Design Study

After more than three years of meeting and public outreach the 36 member Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force is winding down their herculean efforts. The task force members cannot be thanked enough for their tireless efforts and dedication to the future of Tysons Corner and Fairfax County. The Board looks forward to receiving their recommendations this fall. The next step in the planning process is for the task force recommendations to be formatted into formal plan language followed by additional public outreach and comment culminating in public hearings before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. More information about the Tysons Corner Transportation/Urban Design Study is available on the Task Force Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/.

► North County Area Plan Review (APR)

The 2008-2009 North County APR cycle is set to begin this Fall. A task force composed of representatives of Providence District Homeowners and Civic Associations will be convened in November to review applications to change the Comprehensive Plan in the Providence District. A letter will be sent out to all Providence District Homeowner Associations and Civic Associations notifying them of the opportunity to send a representative to serve on the task force. More information is available on the APR Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/apr/ or by contacting Mike Wing at the Providence District Supervisor's office.

► Woodburn Center for Community Mental Health and Inova Fairfax Hospital Campus ~ Special Planning Study

In January of last year, to ensure that the County accommodates future medical and mental health needs, the Board of Supervisors directed the Department of Planning and Zoning to convene a Special Study Task Force to review, discuss and provide community input for revising the Comprehensive land use plan of Woodburn Center for Community Mental Health and the adjoining County and Inova owned properties and the INOVA Fairfax Hospital Campus. Community representatives on the task force had several meetings the first half of the year, took a break over the summer and will reconvene in the Fall. More information is available on the Woodburn Inova Task Force Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/projects/woodburn_inova.htm or by contacting Mike Wing at the Providence District Supervisor's office.

► Merrifield Redevelopment Update

Construction of the new Dunn Loring Metro Garage and mixed use residential and retail project will be initiated early next year. During construction temporary replacement parking will be provided off site within walking distance of the Dunn Loring Metro Station.

Construction of a new and realigned Eskridge Road is tentatively scheduled to begin early next year. Eskridge Road will be raised to meet Lee Highway and Merrilee Drive creating a direct connection between the future Merrifield Town Center and the Dunn Loring Metro Station. Merrifield Town Center construction is scheduled to begin at the same time.

► Vienna Metro Redevelopment Update

Construction of Vaden Drive, connecting Lee Highway with the Vienna Metro Station, is scheduled to start late this year or early next year. Construction of the MetroWest mixed use development will begin concurrently.

► Principles for Public Investment in Support of Commercial Redevelopment

On July 21, 2008 the Board of Supervisors approved 16 principles for public investment to support commercial revitalization. To implement critical aspects of the Comprehensive Plan, the County may be asked to consider the use of public funds to provide needed infrastructure improvements to stimulate and support private revitalization, redevelopment, and reinvestment. These principles will guide the County's involvement in public-private ventures. More information on the Principles is available on the Revitalization Web site at www.fcerevit.org/download/ProposedPrinciples.pdf. ■

HOT Lanes Construction Has Begun

Over the last two years, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has held many outreach public meetings with its private partners Fluor-Lane and Transurban and in collaboration with the Providence District Supervisor's office.

At this time, VDOT and its private partners have already begun construction work on the additional four lanes at the shoulders that will provide for two toll lanes in each direction in the center of the Beltway.

Users and residents in the vicinity of the **Oak Street Bridge** are advised that the project intends to close the bridge around the end of October or the beginning of November to begin reconstruction.

More information is available on the VDOT HOT Lanes Projects Web site at www.virginiadot.org/projects/hot_main.asp or by calling 1-877-495-VDOT (8368), TTY 711. ■



New Rules for Mopeds and Scooters

A number of drivers are turning to mopeds and motorized scooters due to rising gas prices and traffic. On July 1, 2008, a new law went into effect for moped and scooter operators.

A moped driven over 35 mph is now considered a motorcycle, which means that the operator needs to have additional driver's certifications and a motorcycle license. Mopeds will require license plates, proper registration and insurance. If a moped is driven under 35 mph, the operator does not need a license, license plates or insurance but must carry identification.

Safety tips for moped and scooter operators:

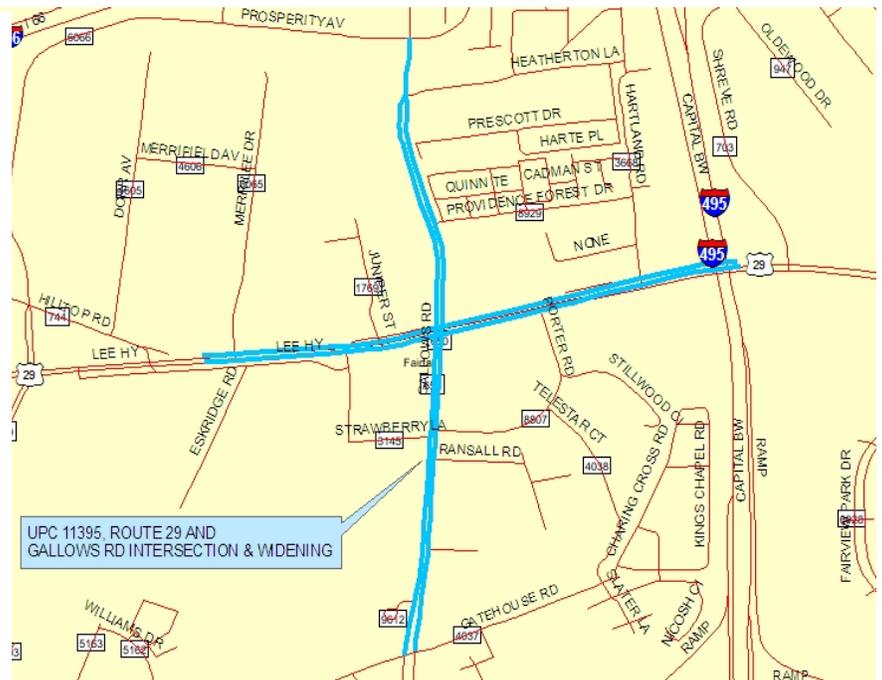
- Wear bright or reflective clothing and a helmet
- Must be at least 16 years old to operate a moped
- Mopeds and bicycles must stay to the right side of the roadway
- Mopeds and motorized scooters may not be operated on sidewalks

More information is available on the Fairfax County Police Traffic Division Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/brochure/Guide-scooter-moped-cycle-operation.pdf or by calling 703-280-0563, TTY 711. ■

Lee Highway and Gallows Road Utility Relocation

As anyone who passes through Merrifield has noticed, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) posted variable message signs to announce the start of preliminary work on its major intersection improvement project at Lee Highway and Gallows Road. Next year's work will mainly be utility relocation that is currently concentrated at the northwest corner of the intersection. VDOT intends to commence major roadwork in early 2011, with an advertisement date of December 2010.

More information is available on the VDOT Web site at www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/lee_highway_and_gallows_road.asp, by emailing Arif Rahman, Project Manager, at md.rahman@vdot.virginia.gov or by calling 703-383-2179, TTY 711. ■



Commuter Connections

Commuter Connections, a Web resource by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, can help you use transit, find a carpool, or learn about teleworking. Commuter Connections is also a clearinghouse for information about construction of regional transportation projects.

More information is available on the Commuter Connections Web site at www.mwcog.org/commuter2 or by calling 1-800-745-RIDE (7433), TTY 711. ■

Home Foreclosures in Fairfax County

The total number of foreclosures in 2007 was 4,527. It is anticipated that the total number of foreclosures in the county in 2008 will far exceed the 2007 number.

The Board of Supervisors has approved a three-pronged initiative to help address the foreclosure crisis in Fairfax County. This initiative includes counseling for homeowners facing foreclosure, aiding first time homebuyers to obtain lower cost loans to purchase foreclosed property, and assisting in the preservation of neighborhoods with clusters of foreclosed homes.

Fairfax County can help if:

- ▶ You are a homeowner in foreclosure
- ▶ You are a renter living in a property in foreclosure
- ▶ You want to complain about vacant or foreclosed properties

More information on is available on the Foreclosed or Vacant Properties Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/foreclosures/ or by calling 703-FAIRFAX (324-7329), TTY 711. ■

Tree Liability

In September 2007, the Virginia Supreme Court issued a decision that overturns a nearly 70-year-old precedent regarding tree liability. Now, for the first time, homeowners can file a lawsuit against a neighbor to cut back branches or roots or take out the tree altogether if it poses a risk of “actual harm” or an “imminent danger” to their houses, the court ruled. Tree owners may now be held liable for damage caused by the tree. Lawsuits between neighbors are a private matter that does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. ■

Invasive Management Area



Friends of Nottoway Park participating in the Invasive Management Area Program clearing out invasive plants.

The Invasive Management Area (IMA) Program is a great way for residents to engage in keeping their local parks healthy and free of invasive plants.

The IMA Program is administered by the Park Authority and supported and promoted by the various Friends of county parks. The IMA is a volunteer driven program led by the IMA Volunteer Site Leaders. As a Site Leader, the volunteer learns about ecosystems and species, volunteer organization, the IMA manual, and plant identification.

More information about the IMA Program is available on the Park Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resOURCES/ima/volfacts.htm or by calling 703-324-8702, TTY 711. ■

Join Fairfax CERT and Be Prepared!

Your local Community Emergency Response Team needs your assistance in community readiness and preparedness. Fairfax CERT is administered by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and is driven by volunteers. More information is available on the Fairfax CERT Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/cert.htm. ■

Fairfax County FY 2010 Budget

On April 21, 2008, the Board of Supervisors committed to strengthen the public input process during future budget cycles. To that end, the Board is extremely interested in engaging the community in this discussion of what Fairfax County's priorities should be during difficult economic times. At that meeting, the Board directed the County Executive to implement a public input process at part of the FY 2010 budget that provides opportunity for public comment, beginning with a countywide public hearing/forum in the Fall of 2008.

The public input process should include traditional means of gathering and disseminating information about the budget such as community meetings and presentations as well as more online opportunities. As part of this process, the County will provide additional information through expanded Internet access to budget information, and staff will explore the feasibility and costs associated with an online database for residents to review county funding for services. Specific means of soliciting input from the various Boards, Authorities and Commissions will also be included.

More information is available on the Budget Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/ or by calling the Department of Management and Budget at 703-324-2391, TTY 711. ■



Mandates

Mandates have become an increasingly important component of the County's budget. Each year county agencies must ensure they have adequate resources to meet the requirements of federal and state mandates, many of which come with no additional funding. The required expenditures that are not offset with federal or state revenue decreases the amount of flexibility in the General Fund budget to support other local programs and the ability to reduce the tax burden on county residents.

More information is available on the Mandates Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/mandates.htm or by calling 703-324-2044, TTY 711. ■

Neighborhood Conference

September 18 to 20

Fairfax County will host the 9th annual Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Registrations are accepted until Friday, September 12.

This year's theme is "Embracing Change - Creating and Sustaining Community Connections." The conference will feature workshops that focus on the following issues and how they affect neighborhoods statewide: embracing diversity; safe and livable neighborhoods; community leadership; developing partnerships; prevention; and youth programming and engagement.

Neighborhood Conference brings together grassroots neighborhood leaders, youth, representatives from nonprofits and government staff involved in neighborhood development. The event provides an opportunity to attend information packed workshops; listen to thought provoking speakers; view an array of exhibitions; and take advantage of unparalleled networking opportunities with influential neighborhood advocates and professionals from across the state.

More information is available on the Conference Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/neighborhood%5Fconference/ or by calling 540-342-2763, TTY 711. ■

Interested in your neighborhood?

My Neighborhood is an online mapping and information resource. Residents can access information on My Neighborhood to pull up relevant community information such as the nearest park, recreation center, library and many more features.

More information is available on the My Neighborhood Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gisapps/myneighborhood/myndefault.aspx?fxmResolution=1024x768. ■

Must-Have Phone Numbers

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Telephone: 703-560-6946 / Fax: 703-207-3541 / TTY: 711

Adult Protective Services: 703-324-7450/ Child Protective Services: 703-324-7400

Suicide Crisis Hotline: (703) 527-4077 Rape Crisis Hotline: (703) 360-7273

Adult Education	703-227-2200	Alcohol/drug abuse services	703-359-7040
Animal Shelter	703-691-2131	Child care	703-449-9555
Consumer Affairs	703-222-8435	Courts	703-691-7320
Dept. of Motor Vehicles	800-435-5137	I-66 Disposal Sites	703-631-1179
Emergency	911	Fastran	703-222-9764
Fire/rescue (non-emergency)	703-691-2131	Gang Unit-Police	703-246-4548
Human Services	703-222-0880	Library, Oakton	703-242-4020
Park Authority	703-324-8700	Police (non-emergency)	703-691-2131
Tax Information	703-222-8234	Recreation Classes	703-324-5550
Recycling InfoLine	703-324-5052	School-Age Child Care Program	703-449-8989
School information	703-246-2502	Senior Citizen Information	703-324-5411
Traffic Tickets	703-246-3764	Trash Pick-up (County)	703-802-3322
VDOT	703-383-VDOT	Voting Information	703-222-0776

Please call 703-FAIRFAX (703-324-7329), TTY 711 for other county related information. Copies of the 2007 Providence Resource Directory are available by calling the Providence District Supervisor's office and are also available on the Providence District Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Prov_News.htm ■



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. For information call our office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711.

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
 8739 Lee Highway
 Fairfax, VA 22031

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