

# The Providence Report

Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

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## Lyme Disease Seminar

The Providence District Supervisor's office is assisting in coordinating a Lyme Disease Seminar that will be hosted by Chairman Sharon Bulova with Special Guest, Congressman Gerry Connolly this spring. The seminar will provide information about this disease, how we can protect ourselves, and what the County is doing to monitor the disease.

Lyme disease is a bacterial disease transmitted through the bite of an infected black-legged tick (also called deer ticks). Black-legged ticks inhabit humid woody areas, such as wooded parklands, but also flourish in the edge areas between forest and lawn that are common in suburban and residential settings. These ticks are found in leaf litter and in the grass and wait for a mammal host to pass by and brush against them. At 3/8-inch long or less, they are easy to overlook. Ticks are most active from the spring through the early fall, but they can be active any time of the year if the weather is warm enough.

There will be a panel of experts presenting information in the Board auditorium and exhibits and displays will be set up in the Government Center atrium from a wide variety of organizations. Please visit our Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/) for updates or call the Providence District Supervisor's office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711 and you will be notified once the event has been scheduled.

For additional information about ticks and Lyme disease, please visit the Fairfax County's Health Department Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/wnvlyme.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/wnvlyme.htm). ■

## A message from Supervisor Smyth

With the ongoing economic conditions affecting county revenues, Fairfax still faces extraordinary budget challenges this year. On top of declining real estate values and lower tax proceeds, proposed state budget cuts could further exacerbate our situation. We will not know the full impact of those cuts until the General Assembly finishes its deliberations in March.

In the meantime, the County Executive will present his budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2011 to the Board of Supervisors on February 23. In preparing his budget the County Executive has taken into account not only the latest economic and revenue forecasts, but also information compiled from last fall's community dialogues on our residents' priorities for funding county programs and services. Information from these meetings and on the budget in general is available on the following county Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/).

As part of our public outreach, Patty Reed, our Providence School Board representative, and I will host joint meetings to present the proposed budget and to take questions and suggestions from our residents. The first meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on **March 10 at Oakton High School (cafeteria), 2900 Sutton Road**. The second one will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **March 15 at Marshall High School (cafeteria), 7731 Leesburg Pike**. We look forward to seeing you for these important discussions.

~ **Linda Smyth**

## New Meeting Days for BOS

Effective January 2010, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meetings will be held on Tuesdays. Information on the Board of Supervisors meeting dates and the meeting agenda are available on the following Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/meetings/2010/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/meetings/2010/) or by calling 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903. ■

## Tax Relief Workshops for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Fairfax County provides real estate tax relief and car tax relief to citizens who are either 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled and meet the income and asset eligibility requirements.

For eligibility requirements, please refer to the Tax Relief - Frequently Asked Questions at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief\\_faq.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief_faq.htm). For an application, call 703-222-8234 TTY: 703-222-7594; Español 703-324-3855, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, email to [taxrelief@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:taxrelief@fairfaxcounty.gov), or download the tax relief application available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/forms.htm#Other\\_Forms](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/forms.htm#Other_Forms).

The Providence District Supervisor's office is hosting Senior Tax Relief Workshops on Wednesday, March 17 and Friday, March 19. To attend the workshop, please make an appointment by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711 for a half hour appointment during the workshop hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The Providence District Supervisor's office is located at 8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031. ▪

## Community Budget Meetings Hosted by Supervisor and School Board Member

Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth and School Board Member Patricia Reed will host two community meetings on the FY 2011 Budget. Providence residents are encouraged to attend and learn about the projected shortfalls facing the County and to voice their priorities and recommendations for dealing with the deficits we're all facing.

The first community meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10 at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, in the cafeteria. The second will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 15 at the Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike in the cafeteria. ▪

## BZA Meeting Notice

Effective January 1, 2010, the Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Wednesdays. Information on the BZA meeting is available on [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/bza/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/bza/) or by calling 703-324-1290, TTY 711. ▪

## Fairfax County's FY 2011 Budget Hearings

► Tuesday, February 23, 2010, the County Executive will present the FY 2011 Advertised Budget

► Budget Hearings  
Tuesday, April 6, 6:00 pm,  
Wednesday, April 7 and  
Thursday, April 8, 3:00 pm

► Tuesday, April 20, Budget Markup  
► Tuesday, April 27, Budget Adoption

Additional information regarding the FY 2011 budget process is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/). The Chairman's State of the County address is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/news/state-of-the-county-2009.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/news/state-of-the-county-2009.htm). ▪

## Tax Assistance for Qualified Residents

If you worked in 2009, and earned less than \$49,000, then you may qualify for tax assistance. Volunteers will ensure that you receive the maximum tax refund and help determine if you are eligible for the earned income tax credit. Families throughout Northern Virginia received over \$4.4 million in federal refunds last tax season through this free service.

Locations providing this free service are listed on the county's Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/families/free\\_income\\_tax\\_prep.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/families/free_income_tax_prep.htm). ▪

## Oakton Library Used Book Sales

10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton 22124

► **Art Books** – Friday, March 5 and Saturday March 6, while supplies last.

► **Books for all ages** - Friday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday May 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To volunteer to help the Friends of Oakton Library with the April used book sale or to become a volunteer member, please call 703-242-4020, TTY 711 or visit their Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/friends/ok/frnd\\_app.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/friends/ok/frnd_app.htm). For other volunteer opportunities, please complete a volunteer application by visiting the library in person or online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/volunteer/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/volunteer/). In addition, for a listing of ongoing events and programs, please visit the View Library Programs Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events). ▪

## New Providence Park Coming

Ken Quincy, Providence District Park Representative

We begin the new year in Providence with the purchase of the Ruckstuhl property. It's a lovely parcel that the Park Authority acquired in cooperation with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Dr. Lily Ruckstuhl willed Northern Virginia Conservation Trust a 7.2 acre property along Idylwood Road in Providence District. NVCT will convey the property to the Park Authority in a bargain sale conveyance, subject to a conservation easement that will protect the property from development in perpetuity.

The property consists of a flat, lightly forested area along Idylwood Road and Dunford Drive and a meadow that gently slopes toward I-66. Single family residences lie to the east and west, and the Lindsay Family Cemetery is next to the meadow. The multi-unit Idylwood Towers Condominiums is across Idylwood Road to the northwest.

There are three residences on the property, including Dr. Ruckstuhl's former residence, a two-story house built in 1900. These houses would have to be demolished to utilize the property as a park.

The entire project is encumbered by the terms of a NVCT conservation easement, which would permit recreational uses. The Park Authority has not decided anything yet, but is considering low impact or passive uses for the future park. These decisions will not be made until a public master planning process can be completed. ▪



View of the Ruckstuhl Park

## Nottoway Easter Egg Hunt

The Fairfax County Park Authority and Friends of Nottoway Park present the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. There will be a special appearance from the Easter bunny. The event is for children ages 1 – 9 years old and the fee is \$7.00 per child. All proceeds donated to Nottoway Park improvements.

To register by mail, send a check to Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna, VA 22181. Make check payable to Fairfax County Park Authority (Nottoway Park Project). Mail-in registration must be postmarked by March 27, 2010. Walk-in registration should be completed by 10:00 a.m. on April 3. Tickets will be ready for pickup at the registration desk on the event day after 10:00 a.m. Please arrive early and bring your own basket.

The egg hunt will be cancelled in case of rain. Call 703-324-8566 after 9:00 a.m. on the day of the event for a cancellation update. ▪

## Spring Clean-Up and Arbor Day in Fairfax

During spring and fall the Clean Fairfax Council supports county wide cleanup programs conducted by individuals, groups, schools, churches, and businesses. The Council is a participant in the Great American Cleanup, a national litter control and recycling cleanup program to help make Fairfax County a cleaner place to live, work and go to school. The Council welcomes volunteers and requests them to fill out the application form available at <http://cleanfairfax.org/community.html> or call 703-324-5471, TTY 711. Once your application has been approved, the Council will send the cleanup supplies to the Providence District Supervisor's office or to a public school near you.

For information on the Clean Fairfax Council and Fairfax County Stormwater Management Stream Clean Up Weekends in March, visit the Council's Web site at the [www.cleanfairfax.org/blog/?page\\_id=4](http://www.cleanfairfax.org/blog/?page_id=4) or call 703-324-5471, TTY 711. And don't forget Earth Day/Arbor Day with Clean Fairfax Council and the Northern Virginia Community College/Annandale on April 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in a table at the event, please contact the Council at phone number above. ▪



## School News

Patricia Reed, School Board Member  
Providence District

I won a special election in November 2009 to fill the seat vacated by former Providence District School Board Representative Phil Niedzielski-Eichner. I was sworn into office on November 16, 2009, and will serve out the remaining two years of Phil's term.

My husband and I live in Oakton and have two children; one is a graduate of Oakton High School who just finished her first semester of college, and one is currently a sophomore at Oakton High School. I hold a Masters in Public Administration. I met many of you during the summer and fall as I walked door-to-door and attended community events. As I said during the campaign, I will ask tough questions and seek greater community engagement and transparency in decision making. We have much work to do together.

At the present time, one of my major areas of interest is the FCPS FY2011 Budget. As you may know, FCPS is planning for a very difficult set of budget decisions affecting the next school year. Our current estimate is that we will have to cut approximately \$170 million worth of programs and services out of our budget for the 2010-2011 school year. It is important to note that this is on top of the cuts we experienced this fiscal year, making this the third year of budget deficits combined with substantial increases in student enrollment.

I encourage you to share your views as we begin in-depth deliberations about the range of potential budget cuts and sources of revenue. For your convenience, I have provided a link to the FCPS budget webpage where you can find additional budget information: [www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm).

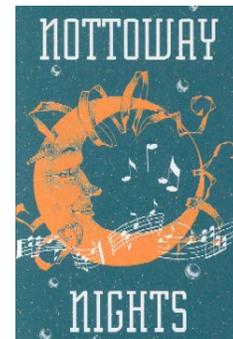
In addition, Supervisor Smyth and I will be holding two joint community meetings to discuss the budget. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 10, at Oakton High School. The second meeting will be held on Monday, March 15, at Marshall High School. Both meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

Please keep me informed of emerging issues, school events and achievements. I look forward to hearing from you and in working together to keep our schools among the best in the nation.

### Contact Information:

E-mail: [Patricia.Reed1@fcps.edu](mailto:Patricia.Reed1@fcps.edu); Voice Mail: 571.423.1084  
Executive Admin. Assistant: [Debra.Cain@fcps.edu](mailto:Debra.Cain@fcps.edu) ■

## 2010 Nottoway Nights Free Concert Series Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m.



Mark your summer calendar for the return of the FREE Nottoway Nights Concert Series at Nottoway Park! The program takes place on the lawn of the historic Hunter House. Supervisor Smyth thanks the Friends of Nottoway, the Park Authority and staff as well as the many sponsors who make these free concerts possible for residents to enjoy.

**Nottoway Park is located at  
9601 Courthouse Road in Vienna.**

- June 17: Glass Onion', A Beatles Tribute Band** (Beatles Tribute)
- June 24: Seldom Scene** (Bluegrass)
- July 1: The Annandale Brass Ensemble** (Patriotic)
- July 8: IONA** (Celtic)
- July 15: Pablo Antonio y La Firma** (Salsa)
- July 22: Mercy Creek Band** (Country)
- July 29: The Winstons Band** (Motown)
- August 5: Kusun Ensemble** (West African Dance)
- August 12: The Nighthawks** (American Roots)
- August 19: Cathy Ponton King** (Blues)
- August 26: Capital Focus Jazz Band** (Jazz)

If you or your organization would like to volunteer to help at Nottoway Nights, please call 703-560-6946, TTY 711. Concerts are cancelled in case of rain and decisions are made by 6:00 p.m. Please call 703-324-SHOW, TTY 711 for cancellations, directions and general information. More park information is available on the Fairfax County Park Authority Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/parks/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/parks/). ■

## U.S. 2010 Census is Getting Underway

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. The 2010 Census will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for public works projects, emergency management and other public services. The data collected by the census also help determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form. Any personal data you provide is protected under Title 13 of the US Code and any violation of this law is a crime with severe penalties.

The majority of the country will receive English-only materials. Households in areas with high concentrations of Spanish-speaking residents may receive a bilingual (English/Spanish) form.

For additional information about the U.S. 2010 Census, please visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/index.php> or call their information line at 301-763-4636 (INFO), 800-923-8282 (Toll Free), 711 TTY. ▪

## Successful "Electric Sundays" Expands to Include Fluorescent Lights

The successful "Electric Sunday" program is expanding in 2010. These events will now offer residents an opportunity to recycle fluorescent light bulbs and tubes in addition to televisions, computers and peripheral electronic devices including keyboards, speakers, keyboards, printers, scanners, etc.

Fluorescent light bulbs and tubes contain a small amount of mercury. Given the high volume of fluorescent light usage in Fairfax County, properly recycling these bulbs and tubes can prevent mercury from entering our waste management system. Disposal of these materials at a household hazardous waste collection site allows for the recovery and recycling of the mercury, glass and aluminum contained in these bulbs and tubes.

For a complete list of dates and locations of the events to be held in 2010, please visit the Electric Sunday's Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/calendar.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/calendar.htm) or call 703-324-5052, TTY 711. ▪

## Document Shredding

**Date: May 1, 2010**  
**Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth's office will again host a document shredding event on Saturday, May 1 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Unity of Fairfax Church, adjacent to the Oakton Library. The event will be in the church parking lot at 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton.

Residents may bring up to five boxes or bags of paper to be shredded on site. Staples in the paper are okay but all plastic binders and metal binder clips must be removed. This shredding event is for paper documents only; no electronic files will be accepted for destruction. ▪

## 2009 Merrifield Festival



Governor Tim Kaine and Secretary of the Commonwealth Kate Hanley enjoying the 2009 Merrifield Festival held at Luther Jackson Middle School ~ Photograph provided by Johnna Scalia, 10th grade student at Falls Church High School. ▪

## Transportation Matters

Providence District is the center of many critical transportation projects.

### ► **Interstate 66**

Because of the availability of federal funding, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has proposed a project to reconstruct and repave I-66 between the Capital Beltway and Route 50. More information will be available later this year.

### ► **Capital Beltway HOT Lanes**

The I-495 overpass at Idylwood Road is planned to be closed for complete renovation starting spring or summer 2010 and concluding late fall or early winter. Homeowners in the vicinity of the overpass will receive a mailing from HOT Lanes staff as we approach the closure date, which will not occur until the Oak Street bridge work has been completed.

Since the HOT Lanes project frequently necessitates detours and other impacts, this office regularly sends out e-mail from VDOT regarding traffic alerts to all homeowners and civic associations e-mail accounts for which this office has current information. If your association does not already receive this e-mail, please contact Providence District at 703-560-6946, TTY 711.

You can register for updates at the HOT Lanes project's Web site, too. See the following Web form to begin directly receiving updates: [www.virginiahotlanes.com/stay-informed.asp](http://www.virginiahotlanes.com/stay-informed.asp). In addition, Jamie Breme, a project public affairs manager, can be reached at 571-483-2638, TTY 711.

### ► **Lee Highway & Gallows Road**

In fall 2008, VDOT reallocated funding (\$38 million) from the construction phase of the Lee Highway and Gallows Road intersection, leaving the project without resources to be completed. On July 13, 2009, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to authorize use of a portion of the Commercial & Industrial Tax to fund the completion of the road widening, rather than let the intersection project idle.

The project is still in the utility relocation phase, but it is still on schedule for a December 2010 advertisement date and construction starting in spring 2011. For more details, please contact the Providence District office or VDOT Project Manager Mr. Arif Rahman at 703-383-2179, TTY 711.

### ► **Dulles Rail**

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project construction has started from Arlington through Tysons Corner to Reston. Station foundation work is being done at several sites. Pile driving and equipment staging are taking place along the Dulles Connector Road from Route 123, and clearing and grading is happening in the median of the Dulles International Airport Access Highway from Reston to Tysons Corner.

For general project information visit [www.dullesmetro.com/](http://www.dullesmetro.com/). To sign up for project updates, alerts and weekly traffic advisories, visit [www.dullesmetro.com/info/signup.cfm](http://www.dullesmetro.com/info/signup.cfm). For construction-related issues, call the project's 24-hour HOTLINE at 1-877-585-6789, TTY 711.

### ► **Our Roads**

In Fairfax County nearly all roads are owned and maintained by the Commonwealth of Virginia. As a result, the County lacks the authority and the funding to perform maintenance on the roads that are now often found unkempt, unsafe, or generally in disrepair.

Because funding for public roads falls within the purview of the Commonwealth, the officials that can assist you in addressing these matters are the governor and members of the General Assembly. Contact the governor and your representatives in the General Assembly to express your views on the Commonwealth's transportation policy. Without action in Richmond, we will not begin to see any improvements in Fairfax County. ■

## Bike to Work Day 2010

Join fellow cyclists and ride together to the office on Friday, May 21, for Bike to Work Day. Organized by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) and Commuter Connections, this regional event is a way to celebrate the personal health and environmental benefits of commuting to work by bicycle.

In Fairfax County there are nine pit stops: Tysons Corner, Vienna, Reston, Fairfax Corner/Government Center, Fairfax City/GMU, Springfield, and three new ones this year: Merrifield, Herndon, and Burke. Pit stops will provide snacks and drinks, offer free bicycle tune-ups, raffles for prizes, and a chance to meet fellow riders. Those who register through WABA will receive a Bike to Work Day T-shirt. Register on line at [www.waba.org](http://www.waba.org).

For more information about pit stops in Fairfax County or assistance in directions/safe routing, contact either Charlie Strunk or Jeff Hermann here at the Fairfax County Department of Transportation at 703-877-5600, TTY 711 or send an email to Supervisor Smyth's office at [provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov). ▀



Participants at the 2009 Bike to Work Day

## New Commercial Parking Rules

On December 7, 2009 the Board of Supervisors approved changes to Section 82-5-7 of the Fairfax County Code, which prohibits parking of commercial vehicles in residential districts. The Board of Supervisors approved the changes to better define commercial vehicles in the County code, in order to improve parking enforcement, and respond to complaints about very large/commercial vehicles parking on residential streets. The effective date of these changes is February 1, 2010, followed by a 30 day warning period.

For more details visit the County Department of Transportation Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/parkingcodechanges.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/parkingcodechanges.htm). ▀

## Pothole Repair and Snow Removal

In the event of potholes or additional snow and ice this year, call 703-383-VDOT (8368), TTY 800-432-1843, or send an e-mail to [novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov) to request snow removal in Northern Virginia. ▀

## Coyotes in our Midst

While occurrences of coyotes in the Providence District area are rare, you need to be aware that there have been sightings. Coyotes inhabit wooded, suburban and urban areas. The coyote is easily adaptable in human-modified environments within Fairfax County.

Coyotes generally pose little threat to humans, their property or pets. Coyotes have been known, in some cases, to prey on cats and small dogs. It is always advisable to feed pets indoors and to keep small companion animals inside or securely penned at night. Coyotes in a natural environment are nocturnal. Coyotes in developed areas are highly adaptive and can become increasingly active during the day. Coyotes are 2.5 to 3.5 feet long (nose to tail), stand as tall as a medium-sized dog, and weigh 15 to 45 lbs. Body color ranges from grayish-brown, yellow-brown, reddish-brown and tan with a short bush tail and yellow or orange eyes.

If you see a coyote, report it immediately to the Animal Control Officer Dispatch at 703-691-2131, TTY 711 and to the Animal Control Office at 703-830-1100 (option 3). For additional information, please visit the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Web site at [www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov). ▀

## 2010 Native Seedling Sale

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is celebrating the year-round color and beauty trees and shrubs add to our landscapes by making low-cost native shrub and tree seedlings available to Northern Virginia residents.

During their "Nature's Palette" sale, separate native tree and shrub seedling packages are available for purchase. Choose 6 native tree seedlings for \$10.95 or/and 10 native shrub seedlings for \$15.95. Orders will be accepted until Monday, April 12, 2010 or while supplies last and are available for pick-up in mid-April.

The 2010 Native Seedling ordering form is available on the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/announcements.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/announcements.htm) to download the order form or call 703-324-1460, TTY 711. ▀

## Tyson's Update

The Tyson's Task Force presented its Vision and Area wide Recommendations to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in September 2008. The Board of Supervisors referred the recommendations to the Planning Commission Tyson's Corner Committee and planning staff for the development of detailed Comprehensive Plan text.

Staff completed draft Plan Text early this year and it was published for review by the Planning Commission and other interested stakeholders. The Board of Supervisors approved a timeline for public review and public hearings for new Tyson's Corner Comprehensive Plan text at their January 11, 2010 meeting (timeline below). For more information please visit the following Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/). ■

### Board of Supervisor's Approved Timeline for Tyson's Plan Amendment

- ▶ **Dec. 2- Jan. 11:** Staff Drafts Plan Amendment
- ▶ **Jan. 14:** Distribute Draft Plan Amendment to Planning Commission Committee
- ▶ **Jan. 20:** Staff Briefing to Planning Commission Committee
- ▶ **Jan. 27 and Feb. 11:** Public Comment on Draft at Planning Commission Committee Meetings
- ▶ **Feb. 24:** Staff Comments on Public Suggestions and Planning Commission Committee Changes
- ▶ **Feb. 25- March 9:** Staff to Revise Document
- ▶ **March 11:** Planning Commission Workshop on Advertised Plan Amendment
- ▶ **March 24:** Planning Commission Public Hearing
- ▶ **Late April/Early May:** Planning Commission Markup
- ▶ **May:** Board of Supervisors Public Hearing and Adoption

## Save the Trees: Get Your Workout

Want to get a good workout and help the environment at the same time? Help save the woods by volunteering to remove invasive plants that threaten trees and wildlife habitat, and help restore woodlands with native plantings at Nottoway Park.

Get your hands in the soil, learn something new and spend time outdoors. Students and scouts, earn community service hours. Bring family and friends, make a difference and meet others who share your interests. Join Friends of Nottoway IMA (Invasive Management Area) volunteers in 2009!

Work days are on **Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon;** February 27, March 20, April 17, September 25, October 23 (rain date: October 30). Work will take place during light rain but will be cancelled in the event of lightning, thunder, and/or heavy rain.

More information is available on the Fairfax County Park Authority's IMA Program Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima), by calling 703-324-8681, TTY 711 or emailing the Friends of Nottoway Park at [friendsofnottoway@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofnottoway@gmail.com). ■

## Universal Design Workshop

The Providence and the Hunter Mill District Supervisors are jointly hosting a Universal Design Workshop this spring. A date could not be confirmed by the time this newsletter was published so please visit our Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence) for updates or call our office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711 and you will be notified.

Recent demographic studies in Fairfax County have pointed out the trend that our population is "aging in place." Universal Design is one of the concepts that can assist in making aging in place easier through structural and design modifications that can make your home safer and more comfortable. Examples of these modifications could be bathrooms, ramps, lifts, doors as well as many other ways to make your home more accessible and accommodating.

The Workshop will feature experts to present an overview of Universal Design concepts, changes you can make to your home, permit considerations and practical tips for safety in your home. There will also be a variety of Universal Design concept exhibitors. ■

## Merrifield Updates

The developers of three approved mixed use projects in Providence (including redevelopment of the Dunn Loring Metro Station by Trammell Crow Residential, the DFS Long Merrifield Halstead mixed use project and the Mosaic at Merrifield) have indicated that they all plan to move forward with construction of their respective projects. We will share updates as soon as construction schedules have been established by the developers. The Board of Supervisors approved a parking reduction at the end of 2009 for the retail component of the Trammell Crow project at the Dunn Loring Metro.

DFS Long LLC has paid it's first of two installments of \$225,000 of proffered contributions for park /athletic field improvements at Luther Jackson Middle School. They have secured financing for the project and site plans have been submitted to the County for bonding. They plan to start construction the first two weeks of March 2010.

Edens & Avant, the developer of Mosaic at Merrifield, is finalizing engineering plans for site and public improvements and is preparing to initiate construction in mid- 2010, if initial leasing milestones are met. At the time of publication of this newsletter they were preparing to fulfill their in kind and proffered contributions for improvements to athletic fields at Luther Jackson Middle School and public roads.

## Metro West /Vienna Metro Station Redevelopment update

Pulte, the primary developer of the Metro West mixed use project is prepared to initiate site work and construction of infrastructure improvements including the new Vaden Drive extended in late January or early February 2010. Construction of the entire project will take several years to be completed.

Pulte is required under their approved zoning to keep the public informed about construction that may affect pedestrian and vehicular access to and from the south side of the Vienna Metro Station. Pulte will be posting updates on site and on their website to keep residents informed about any temporary changes to access during construction. ■

## 2010 Legislative Issues and Contact Information

The 2010 Fairfax County Legislative Agenda is available to all residents on the county's Legislative Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/legislation/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/legislation/). Residents may also look up the progress of specific legislation on the General Assembly's Legislative Information System Web site at <http://leg1.state.va.us/>.

The most appropriate way to express your opinion about any legislation is through your local delegate and/or senator (<http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>). For more information about your legislators and how to contact them, please visit the Virginia General Assembly Web site at <http://legis.virginia.gov/>. You may also contact the Virginia General Assembly's Constituent Viewpoint Comment line toll-free at 1-800-889-0229 (804-698-1990 in Richmond). ■

Sen. Janet D. Howell	703-709-8283	senhowell@gmail.com
Sen. Chap Petersen	703-349-3361	info@fairfaxsenator.com
Sen. Dick L. Saslaw	703-978-0200	vasenate35@aol.com
Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple	703-538-4097	district31@senate.virginia.gov
Del. Barbara Comstock	703-209-3787	delbcomstock@house.virginia.gov
Del. David L. Bulova	703-310-6752	deldbulova@house.virginia.gov
Del. Mark Keam	703-350-3911	delkeam@gmail.com
Del. Kaye Kory	703-354-6024	delkkory@house.virginia.gov
Del. James M. Scott	703-560-8338	deljscott@aol.com

## Frequently Asked Code Enforcement Questions and Other Zoning Information

- ▶ **How many unrelated people may live in a house?** Up to four unrelated people. If more than four unrelated individuals live in a house, it is considered a boarding or rooming house operation. It is illegal to operate a boarding/rooming house, except under very limited circumstances requiring a special permit. To report a suspected illegal boarding house, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/striketeam](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/striketeam) or call 703-324-1300, TTY 711.
- ▶ **Can a vehicle or trailer be parked on the lawn?** Vehicles must be parked on the street or on a paved driveway. The only exception is if a vehicle is being actively cleaned, repaired or loaded. A vehicle may be parked on the lawn for these reasons, but for no longer than 48 hours. More information on parking and neighborhood traffic rules can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/rtap.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/rtap.htm).
- ▶ **Can commercial vehicles be parked on a residential property?** One commercial vehicle may be parked on a residential property, such as a van or truck. The vehicle may be parked on a paved driveway or on the side or the backyard lawn. If your neighborhood is part of a Community Parking District, commercial vehicles may be prohibited from parking on the street; for more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/large\\_cpd.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/large_cpd.htm). Garbage trucks, tractor-trailer trucks, dump trucks and cement-mixer trucks may not be parked on a residential property.
- ▶ **Can a commercial vehicle be parked on a residential street?** No — except for one licensed taxicab or limousine per home. Commercial vehicles — such as tractor-trailers, semi-trailers, cement-mixers, garbage trucks, construction equipment and trucks, trailers or semi-trailers for transporting lawn-care equipment or storing or selling food — are prohibited on a residential street. However, vehicles commonly perceived as commercial vehicles — such as U-Haul trucks and trailers or vans used by a plumber or an electrician — may be parked on a residential street. See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/parkingcodechanges.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/parkingcodechanges.htm).
- ▶ **Can construction equipment be parked on residential property?** Construction equipment may be kept anywhere on the property if there is a valid building permit and work is in progress.
- ▶ **How much of a front yard can be paved for use as a driveway or other purpose?** It depends on the zoning district in which the neighborhood is located. In R-1 and R-2 Districts, no more than 25 percent may be paved; in R-3 and R-4 Districts, no more than 30 percent may be paved. To find out how your neighborhood is zoned, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/myzoningdistrict.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/myzoningdistrict.htm).
- ▶ **What should I do if a car or truck is blocking the street, preventing other vehicles from passing?** Call the Fairfax County Police Department's non-emergency phone number at 703-691-2131, TTY 711, and the police will investigate. Parking is allowed on both sides of narrow residential streets, but vehicles must be parked close to the curb and face the proper direction of travel. However, it is prohibited to park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, within 20 feet of a crosswalk and within 30 feet of a stop sign.
- ▶ **Are cars without license plates allowed to be parked on the street or a driveway?** No. Vehicles must have current license plates, according to state and county codes. New residents must get Virginia license plates within 30 days of moving into the state. Military and diplomatic personnel are exempt from this requirement, but they must have current license plates on their vehicles. Call the Fairfax County Police Department's non-emergency phone number at 703-691-2131, TTY 711, if you see a car with expired license plates or no plates at all.
- ▶ **Are cars with out-of-state license plates allowed to park on the street or a driveway?** Yes. However, new residents must get Virginia license plates within 30 days of moving into the state. Military and diplomatic personnel are exempt from this requirement, but they must have current license plates on their vehicles.
- ▶ **How long may a home construction project remain unfinished?** Home construction projects with the proper permits may continue indefinitely, provided substantive progress is being made. If work is suspended or abandoned for more than six months, the building permit may be revoked. The county cannot force homeowners to finish a construction project, if it has proper permits.
- ▶ **Can I store construction materials in my yard?** Yes, if you have a valid building permit.
- ▶ **Are home businesses legal?** Home businesses are allowed with a proper permit, but clients or customers may not come to the house — with the exception of a licensed child care business and teachers, such as dance or piano instructors.

## Frequently Asked Code Enforcement Questions and Other Zoning Information

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Home businesses may not display signs or store, display or sell goods on the property. Repair and service businesses, such as car repair, car detailing or barbers, are prohibited. You may need county permits or licenses to operate a home business. To find out if a home business is legal, call the Department of Planning and Zoning at 703-222-1082, TTY 711.

▶ **How long can trash stay on the curb?** Trash bags may only be put out at the curb 12 hours before they are picked up, but trash cans and recycling bins may be put out at the curb 24 hours before pickup. However, many homeowners associations have stricter rules about when trash can be put out at the curb. Trash companies do not normally pick up large, bulky items, such as mattresses, furniture or fallen trees. You can ask your trash company to pick up these kinds of items for an extra fee. It is a homeowner's responsibility to make sure these items are picked up. If trash is left at the curb for more than 10 days, call the Health Department at 703-246-2300, TTY 711. The county will investigate the complaint, collect the trash if the property owner does not comply with directives to remove it themselves, and charge the property owner for picking it up under the county's Clean Street's Initiative Program. The minimum fee for the program is \$250, and can rise depending upon the amount of trash.

▶ **Can I store unused, unwanted items in my yard, such as tires or furniture?** You can store items in your yard, but they must be put in the backyard. They also must be screened with a fence from view from the first-story window of nearby homes. The storage area cannot exceed 100 square feet on most residential properties.

▶ **Can portable storage containers, also known as pods, be kept on the street or residential property?** Portable storage containers are allowed anywhere on residential properties, including lawns and driveways. But they may not be placed on a street, sidewalk, trail or anywhere that might block cars or pedestrians. Within a six-month period, they may be kept for seven consecutive days in townhouse complexes; 30 consecutive days on lots that are 36,000 square feet or less; or 60 consecutive days on lots larger than 36,000 square feet. In some cases, they may be kept for up to six consecutive months with a special permit.

▶ **What are the rules for how homes must be maintained?** The County Code requires that all structures be kept in good repair and in sound condition both on the exterior and interior of the structure. Common problems include broken windows, falling gutters and missing siding.

▶ **What is the maximum height for uncut grass?** Uncut grass cannot be higher than 12 inches on residential properties that are half an acre or less. To submit a complaint, call 703-324-1937, TTY 711, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/grass\\_height.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/grass_height.htm).

▶ **What should I do about graffiti in my neighborhood?** The first step is to report the graffiti to the Police Department's non-emergency number, 703-691-2131, TTY 711. Fairfax County requires that property owners remove, clean or cover the graffiti within 15 days. Further information on the county code and how to prevent and remove graffiti can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gangprevention](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gangprevention).

In addition to the above frequently asked code enforcement questions, the County has extensive zoning requirements that must be met covering everything from keeping animals to how your property is zoned and how you can get a copy of your plat. For additional information on these zoning requirements, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions on the following Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/faqs/zoning.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/faqs/zoning.htm). To file a complaint on-line, please visit the code enforcement complaint form at <http://66.179.23.21/DP1/Metroplex/FairfaxCounty/customerservice/selectbyservno.asp>. To check if an address has an active case in process, please visit the Fairfax County Code Enforcement Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/codeenforcementinquiry/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/codeenforcementinquiry/). ■

## Informed Consumer Newsletter

The Office of Consumer Affairs is now issuing an on-line consumer publication, The Informed Consumer. It is a quarterly publication designed to keep Fairfax County residents updated on consumer issues and is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/enewsletter/e-newsletter\\_-\\_winter\\_2010.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/enewsletter/e-newsletter_-_winter_2010.pdf). Should you not have computer access, please call this office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711 and we arrange to make a copy available to you. ■

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

## The Providence Report

### 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: 1-800-656-4673

<b>Adult Education</b>	703-658-1201	<b>Alcohol/drug abuse services</b>	703-359-7040
<b>Animal Shelter</b>	703-830-1100	<b>Child care</b>	703-324-8100
<b>Consumer Affairs</b>	703-222-8435	<b>Circuit Courts</b>	703-691-7320
<b>Dept. of Motor Vehicles</b>	804-497-7100	<b>I-66 Disposal Sites</b>	703-631-1179
<b>Emergency</b>	911	<b>Fastran</b>	703-222-9764
<b>Fire/rescue (non-emergency)</b>	703-691-2131	<b>Gang Unit-Police</b>	703-246-4567
<b>Human Services</b>	703-222-0880	<b>Library, Oakton</b>	703-242-4020
<b>Park Authority</b>	703-324-8700	<b>Police (non-emergency)</b>	703-691-2131
<b>Tax Information</b>	703-222-8234	<b>Recreation Classes</b>	703-324-5550
<b>Recycling InfoLine</b>	703-324-5052	<b>School-Age Child Care Program</b>	703-449-8989
<b>School Board</b>	571-423-1075	<b>Senior Citizen Information</b>	703-324-7948
<b>Traffic Tickets</b>	703-246-3764	<b>Trash Pick-up</b>	703-324-5230
<b>VDOT</b>	703-383-8368	<b>Voting Information</b>	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](http://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.