

# The Providence Report

**Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth**  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

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## Penalty for Failure to Display Virginia License Plates

In the fall of 2013, Fairfax County instituted a “No Plate Tax” penalty, which means failure to properly display Virginia license plates within 30 days of buying a new vehicle or moving one from out of state will be subject to a **\$350.00** tax and penalty.

During the 2013 session of the Virginia General Assembly, a law was enacted that authorizes localities to adopt an additional \$250.00 penalty for the failure to display Virginia license plates. This penalty is in addition to the existing \$100.00 “No Plate Tax” already imposed by law. The penalty is collected with personal property taxes assessed against vehicles that are normally garaged in Fairfax County but that continue to display out-of-state license plates beyond the first 30 days. For information about exemptions for servicemen and servicewomen and active duty personnel, government, diplomat, rental or those eligible for tax relief, visit [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/tax\\_exemptions.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/tax_exemptions.htm).

“Program TARGET” is a county effort to assess and collect taxes from apparent tax evaders. It enables citizens to report vehicles that may be evading the county’s personal property tax laws. Citizen reports are very helpful and appreciated in the effort to ensure that all vehicles are properly assessed so that everyone carries their fair share of the tax burden. Citizens are asked to report 'tips' of possible tax evaders online. There is also a feature to check the status of previously reported tips by providing the license plate number of a previous tip. Please go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxevaders/> to report a license plate or check on one previously reported. Citizens may also call 703-222-8234, TTY 703-222-7594 to report vehicles that may be evading the county's personal property tax laws.

**POTHoles:** To report a pothole, citizens should visit <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp> or call VDOT's Customer Service Center at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (1-800-367-7623). TTY users, call 711. Northern Virginia drivers can also email [novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov).

## A Message from Supervisor Smyth

The walls are going up on our new Providence Community Center. As the photo below shows, we still have a long way to go before the building is finished. However, if the weather cooperates, we anticipate opening the doors to the public by the end of this year.

The construction of our community center is part of the commitments proffered by the developers of MetroWest, which adjoins the Vienna Metro Station. When it is completed, the community center will include a full size gym, meeting rooms, recreational facilities, space for police, a precinct polling place, and a new office for the Providence District Supervisor. The county's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) will be responsible for programming activities in the center and is seeking input from residents during the planning process. To provide suggestions or check out public planning meetings, please contact Chris Scales (NCS) at 703-787-4990, TTY 711.

**~Linda Smyth**



## An End to the Water Wars – Water Provider Update

As reported in previous additions of the Providence Report, the Board of Supervisors passed a “Water Ordinance” in 2011 to require municipalities to justify rate differences to ensure that Fairfax County residents and businesses were not subsidizing the running of cities or towns through their water rates. After years of investigation and litigation, we can now report that positive action has taken place.

Last year, the Providence District was served by four different water systems. In 2014 that number was cut in half. On January 3, 2014, Fairfax Water completed the purchase of the City of Fairfax and City of Falls Church water systems – leaving Fairfax Water and the Town of Vienna as the two remaining water providers in Providence. Effective January 3, 2014, the Town of Vienna’s water will come from Fairfax Water. The Town is currently evaluating the impact of this change and how it may affect their water and sewer rates.

For the customers that were already served by Fairfax Water, this has no impact on your rates or level of service. In fact, having a larger customer base helps realize larger economies of scale – ultimately keeping costs down for the entire system.

For the customers that were formally served by the cities, your rates will be coming down within three years for the City of Fairfax system and two years for the City of Falls Church system. From that point on, a uniform rate for all customers of Fairfax Water will be maintained.

There are several reasons for lowering rates in this fashion:

Fairfax Water needs time to gain operational experience to determine if there are any unusual or significant infrastructure concerns of which they are not aware. This will also allow some time to begin detailed planning to:

- Put in place a financial strategy designed to maintain the quality of the system and your service.

- Dedicate funding to ensure that infrastructure can be replaced as needed without placing a financial or service burden on the customers.

- To bring to bear Fairfax Water's operational efficiency levels, particularly in the area of personnel through attrition. Fairfax Water was required to provide employment to all water system personnel of the cities to effect the agreement.

As a non-profit public utility, Fairfax Water is mandated to charge only for the actual cost of providing water service to our customers. Cost of Service studies will be conducted to evaluate this cost and look closely at population projections, average per capita water usage, and projected inflation rates. Should the revenues exceed expenses in the short-term, the excess funds will be utilized to meet infrastructure replacement needs. The city systems have a greater need for such replacements than the current Fairfax Water system.

Finally, the Washington Aqueduct supply is now joined with Fairfax Water’s two existing state-of-the-art treatment plants, providing additional back-up supply and creating one of the most robust water systems in the country. Integrating the two systems will give Fairfax Water the ability to provide a total of 375 million gallons of water a day.



## Library Access Services

The Access Services branch of the Fairfax County Library removes barriers to library services for people with disabilities. Their many services include providing opportunities to learn about assistive technology and equipment, providing books in alternative formats to people with vision impairments and delivering books to readers who cannot visit a local library.

Access Services Library Hours of Operation are Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; closed Saturday and Sunday. You may visit the Access Services branch at the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 123, Fairfax, VA 22035-0012; telephone 703-324-8380, TTY 711 or email [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov). For additional information or to download a Talking Book or Home Delivery application, visit the website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/as/>. The website provides links to an Overview of Services, Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities, Deposit Site Collections, Home Delivery of Library Materials, Newsletter and Outreach Programming, Services for People Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Special Collections, Talking Book Program, Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD), BARD Mobile and Useful Links for People with Disabilities. You may also obtain information about the topics on the website by calling the Access Services branch at the above number during their regular working hours.

## Tax Relief Workshops for Seniors and People with Disabilities

The Providence District Supervisor's office is hosting free tax relief workshops for older adults and people with disabilities who may be eligible to receive real estate tax relief from Fairfax County. The workshops are by appointment only and take place on **Monday, March 10, and Friday, March 14, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**, at the Providence District Supervisor's Office, 8739 Lee Highway. **To schedule your 30 minute workshop appointment, call 703-560-6946 (TY 711).** To see if you qualify for tax relief, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta) and click on Tax Relief under the Real Estate heading, or call 703-222-8234 (TTY 703-222-7594).

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. Returning applicants must file between January 1 and April 1. (Some exceptions may be available if applications are filed late due to a hardship which prevented the application from being filed in time. Requests for hardship waivers must be submitted in writing to the Department of Tax Administration.) Forgot to apply for 2013? Applications are still being accepted based on hardship and for first-time filers through December 31, 2014. For eligibility requirements, refer to Tax Relief - Frequently Asked Questions at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief\\_faq.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief_faq.htm). For an application, call 703-222-8234; Español 703-324-3855, between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm weekdays; email a request to [taxrelief@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:taxrelief@fairfaxcounty.gov), or download the tax relief application at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/pdf\\_files/2013\\_tax\\_relief\\_application.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/pdf_files/2013_tax_relief_application.pdf).

## Providence FY 2015 Community Budget Meeting

Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth, School Board Member Patty Reed and the Providence District Council will host a community meeting on the FY 2015 Budget on **Tuesday, March 18, at 7:00 pm in room 110 of the Dunn Loring Administrative Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring.** Providence District residents are encouraged to attend and learn about the challenges we continue to face in the midst of a multi-year, cyclical economic downturn. The combination of flat revenue growth and increasing requirements for services means that the county faces projected budget shortfalls in both FY 2015 and FY 2016. There are requests for additional funding from the Fairfax County Public Schools and the increasing needs for county services with more residents requiring assistance while options for helping them becoming more limited. One primary means of addressing this budget gap is through service reductions. We continue to struggle with trying to identify which potential reductions are acceptable and unacceptable to the community, and then determining if there are other means to balance the budget. Consideration has to be given to those services that the county is required by law to provide, such as health and public safety, as opposed to those services that improve our quality life but are not mandated by law.

On November 26, 2013, the County Executive presented a county budget forecast for FY 2014, 2015 and 2016 at a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. A link to that presentation is at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2014/fy14-15-county-budget-forecast.pdf>. The FY 2015 Advertised Budget process is as follows:

February 25, the County Executive presents the FY 2015 Advertised Budget

Budget Hearings at Government Center Auditorium:

Tuesday, April 8, 6:00 pm, Wednesday, April 9, 3:00 pm, Thursday, April 10, 3:00 pm

April 22, Budget Markup; April 29, Budget Adoption

## 2014 Tax Resources and Free Tax Preparation for Qualified Residents

The county website provides a compilation of resources from the Library, Department of Family Services, Consumer Affairs and Department of Tax Administration to assist in preparation of 2014 income taxes. It includes useful information including links to obtain forms and filing deadlines. More information on the topics below is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2014/tax-resources-2014.htm>.

Federal and State Income Tax (forms, deadlines and helpful tips)

Fairfax County Real Estate, Personal Property (Car) and Renters Tax Relief (tax relief for seniors and people with disabilities, schedule of free workshops held in March and tax relief for disabled veterans)

Tax Preparation (choosing a tax preparer, volunteer income tax assistance program and a calendar of tax preparation events)

Customer Service Phone Numbers (Federal, Virginia state and Fairfax County)

If you worked in 2013 and your adjusted gross income was less than \$52,000 you may qualify for free in-person tax preparation assistance. With the help of dedicated and trained volunteers, this service helped low-income families throughout Northern Virginia save over \$1.1 million in professional filing fees and receive over \$8 million in refunds last tax season. To find a list of locations and hours as well as a list of the items you must bring, please go to <http://nvacash.org>.

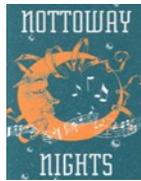
AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, an AARP Foundation program, also helps low to moderate income taxpayers with tax services and ensuring they receive applicable tax credits and deductions. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is available free to taxpayers with low and moderate incomes, with special attention to those 60 and older. Through a cadre of trained volunteers, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has helped low to moderate income individuals for more than 40 years. For additional information including a list of locations and hours, as well as a list of items you must bring, please go to [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

Also, if you worked in 2013, your adjusted gross income was less than \$58,000 and you are comfortable using a self-prepared tax filing tool, you may file your taxes at no charge using One Economy's Online Tax Tool at [www.myfreetaxes.com/metrodc](http://www.myfreetaxes.com/metrodc). The deadline for filing your federal taxes this year is Tuesday, April 15, 2014.

## NOTTOWAY NIGHTS CONCERT SERIES

THURSDAY EVENINGS at 7:30 pm

NOTTOWAY PARK - 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna



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. If you or your organization would like to volunteer to help at Nottoway Nights, please call 703-560-6946, TTY 711.

### Nottoway Nights Concert Series – Summer 2014

#### June

- 19 The United States Air Force Band
- 26 Pearl and the Beard (Pop/Rock)

#### July

- 3 Rick Franklin & His Delta Blues Boys (Blues)
- 10 Enter the Haggis (Celtic/Rock)
- 17 King Teddy (Swing)
- 24 Melodime (Rock)
- 31 Shenandoah Run (Folk)

#### August

- 7 James Hill & Anne Janelle (Jazz)
- 14 The Grandsons (Rockabilly)
- 21 “The Jazz Ambassadors” of the United States Army Field Band
- 28 Seldom Scene (Bluegrass)

Concerts are cancelled if it is raining. If there is a threat of bad weather, call 703-324-SHOW (7469) after 6:00 pm for cancellation updates. Concerts are held outdoors. Please bring your own blankets and lawn chairs. Please visit the website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances) for updates and any other information.

## EASTER EGG HUNT AT NOTTOWAY

The Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Nottoway will host the annual Egg Hunt and a visit with the Easter bunny on **Saturday, April 19, 2014**. Children ages one to nine will hunt for eggs, candies and toys and win door prizes. Tickets cost \$8 per child, with proceeds benefitting Nottoway Park improvements.

Walk-in registration (cash only) starts at 9:30 am at the picnic shelter. Egg Hunt times are: 10:30 am (1-2 yrs.), 11 am (3-4 yrs.), 11:30 am (5-6 yrs.) and 12 pm (7-9 yrs.). Bring your own basket. The event will be cancelled in case of rain. Please call 703-324-8566 after 8:30 am on the day of the event for a cancellation update.

To volunteer for this event please call 703-560-6946.

Directions: Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Rd, Vienna. Beltway Exit 49 (I-66) to exit at Route 234 or Nutley Street north, turn left on Courthouse Rd and the park entrance will be on the left.

## TAKE BACK THE FOREST

Dig in and get involved with native habitat restoration in the Nottoway Park woodlands. Help *remove* invasive plants and *replant* native species. Students and scouts earn community service hours. Scout projects are welcome.

**Workdays:** *Saturdays* (9 am to noon)—March 15, March 29, April 12, May 3

*Wednesdays* (2 to 5 pm)—March 19, April 23

**More Information & Volunteer Sign Up:** <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA/> or call 703-324-8681.



## Farmers Market

Each year from May through November Farmers Markets come alive throughout Fairfax County.

With 11 markets in Fairfax, local vendors come to sell their products. Each vendor grows, raises, or makes their products and must be located within a 125 mile radius of Fairfax County. The Farmers Markets are supervised by the Fairfax County Park Authority through the Community Horticulture office based at Green Spring Gardens. The daily operations of the markets are managed by volunteer Market Masters. For a 2014 Farmers Market schedule, please check <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-farm-mkt.htm> or call 703-642-0128, TTY 703-803-3354.

## 2014 Annual Native Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District has begun its 2014 seedling sale. This year's selection will concentrate on creating a beautiful landscape while remaining ecofriendly to bees. Two packages are offered this season: 10 bare-root shrubs and small trees for \$16.95 or 6 bare-root trees for \$11.95. To see images and names of this year's plants or to find order forms, please visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm). A full, nonrefundable payment must accompany your order by Monday, April 28, 2014, or until supplies run out. You will receive a confirmation receipt and directions to the pickup site (in central Fairfax County). Orders may be picked up on Friday, May 2, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, or Saturday, May 3, 9:00 am to noon.

## Friends of Oakton Library Spring Book Sale

March 20 through March 22, 2014  
10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton, VA 22124  
703-242-4020 [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/)

Thursday, March 20, from 1:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
Friday, March 21, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Saturday, March 22, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

March 10 is the cutoff for accepting book donations.  
Donations are welcome again after March 23.

## Book Sale to Benefit the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library

April 5 and April 6, 2014  
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043  
Saturday, April 5, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Bag Sale/Clearance Sunday, April 6, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Large selection of books, magazines and media  
for adults and children

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library  
[TysonsLibraryFriends@gmail.com](mailto:TysonsLibraryFriends@gmail.com) 703-790-4031

## FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND CELEBRATE 75 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Work is underway to improve library service

2013 found our Fairfax County Public Library considering its future in the twenty-first century. Libraries are at a pivotal crossroads as they are called upon to meet the changing needs of their patrons brought on by technology and the internet while providing resources within limited budget constraints. In order to address these changes the Fairfax County Public Library began testing a redirection plan called the Beta Plan. Immediately the Board of Supervisors was inundated with complaints.

On September 10th the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors passed a motion to delay the library Beta Plan in order to get additional public comment and employee input. (See page 40 of Board minutes <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/summary/2013/13-09-10.pdf>.) As a result, the following evening, the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees, responsible for library policies and for making budget recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, approved a motion to suspend the Beta Plan testing and seek more public and staff engagement. They created two ad hoc committees: one committee to make recommendations on the future direction of the library and to evaluate the consultants suggested Beta Plan, and one committee to review the current process for how books are maintained within the library system and the discard process to ensure that usable books are either resold or redistributed.

A series of well attended community meetings were held throughout the county during the month of October, 2013. Numerous comments, suggestions and recommendations were offered for consideration both at the meetings and by email. The most overarching theme among the comments received was that libraries are a highly valued service in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax. As a result of this extensive stakeholder input, the ad hoc committees developed a number of recommendations as follows:

The **report adopted by the Ad Hoc Communications and Evaluation Committee** of the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees on Friday, November 1, 2013 is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/communicationandevaluationreport.htm>. The committee recommended that the Beta Plan be rejected as proposed and that a survey be conducted at libraries to determine how they can better serve the public.

The **report of the Ad Hoc Floating and Weeding Committee** is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/floatinganddiscardsreport.htm>. Among the committee's recommendations was to return decisions to discard books to library branches and that each library branch offer used books to library Friends Groups prior to discarding.

A timeline for the execution of the recommendations in the two Ad Hoc committees' reports was requested by the Board of Supervisors and is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/redirection.htm>.

## FAIRFAX COUNTY LIBRARY IS CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

In 1939 Herndon Fort Nightly became the first Fairfax County Public Library. Seventy-five years later we have 15 neighborhood branches and 8 regional libraries within Fairfax County. The Library has created a limited edition 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary library card which will be issued to those applying for a library card, until the supply is exhausted.

Currently plans for celebration of our library's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary are being decided and each library branch will be celebrating in their own way. Stay tuned to your Fairfax County Public Library website for the celebration throughout 2014 at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/anniversaryevents.htm>.

# CELEBRATE



## Celebrate Fairfax! Projects

Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. (CFI), is the producer of the annual Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. This year the festival will take place beginning the evening of Friday, June 6, through Sunday, June 8. For additional information about the Celebrate Fairfax! Festival please go to <http://www.celebratefairfax.com>. In conjunction with the festival, CFI is seeking submissions for two projects; the Celebrate Fairfax Community Spirit Scholarship and a "How Do You Celebrate Fairfax" photo contest.

The scholarship program awards \$1,000 each to a graduating FCPS senior from each Supervisory District. The criteria for consideration are a combination of academics, extracurricular activities, community volunteerism and other factors that demonstrate excellence in community spirit. Information regarding eligibility and criteria may be found along with the online scholarship application at [www.celebratefairfax.com/scholarships](http://www.celebratefairfax.com/scholarships). The deadline for application submission is April 1. Final selection of awardees will be made by the Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. Board of Directors.

Last year, CFI introduced a photo competition at the Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. This year the theme is "How Do You Celebrate Fairfax?" The submission period for photos is February 15 – May 7. Photos may be dropped off at our office, 8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031, during the hours of Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, excluding holidays. For additional information on how to submit entries electronically as well as selection criteria go to <http://www.celebratefairfax.com/PhotoContest>. The deadline for submission is May 7th, by 4:00 pm.

### Request to Receive Email Notifications

Currently this office maintains an email list of Providence District Homeowner and Civic Associations. When we have an issue affecting Providence such as a public meeting, emergency information, traffic pattern changes or construction, etc., we send that information by email to the homeowner and civic association contacts and ask that they further distribute the information to their members.

Unfortunately, all associations do not maintain email contact lists and some residents do not reside within the boundaries of an association. It is important to us that all Providence District residents receive notifications of issues which may be of interest in a timely manner. If you would like to receive these email notifications, please send your email to [provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov) with the subject line of Please Add to Email List. Should you wish to stop receiving these emails you may notify our office by the same method as described above requesting to be removed and we will remove your email information promptly. Be advised that the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) apply to any information collected by the Fairfax County Government. For additional information on the VFOIA, please go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/foia.htm>.

Thank you to the many associations that have provided updates when officers changed. Many associations boards change annually and we ask that you please remember to provide us with changes to your Boards. Many homeowner associations are now opting to have one email address for their associations that remains the same when their officers change. If you have this type of email, please send it to our office so that we can send your association information on matters of importance to Providence residents. If you prefer these notices go to the association's named officers, please provide us with updated officers' names and contact information, to include email addresses. In either case, you can send the information to [provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Document Shredding Event in Providence

**Saturday, June 21, 8:00 am to noon**

**Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, 22181**

The annual shredding event in Providence is scheduled for June 21, from 8:00 am to noon. We recommend you arrive early because while the event is scheduled until noon, there are a limited number of trucks available. Once they are filled, the event must end. Residents may bring up to 5 medium size packing boxes per vehicle of residential documents of a sensitive nature to be shredded. Please go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/shredding.htm>, or call 703-324-5230, TTY 711, for a list of prohibited items, procedures for the event and other 2014 shredding events in the county.



The results of a community survey conducted last year identified mobile phones as the first choice and radio as the second choice to access emergency information. Based on this, the County's Office of Public Affairs (OPA) has created Fairfax County Government Radio, a new Internet

radio station. This new information portal was created at minimum cost. OPA will program and run it internally thereby eliminating the need to wait until commercial stations are able to share Fairfax County specific messages.

The station will broadcast timely information, protective guidance and life-saving recommendations during emergencies. Listeners can hear podcasts about health and safety issues and other news and to learn about county events such as "Stuff the Bus" and the countywide dialogue on transportation. Please go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio) to listen. Also please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/stay-informed.htm> for additional ways to protect yourself and stay informed during emergencies.

## Drainage and Erosion Problems?

If you think you might have drainage or erosion problems on your property, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District has developed "Solving Drainage and Erosion Problems: A Guide for Homeowners" that can help address your concerns. So if your yard is still soggy days after a rain or you have unexplained bare spots, holes or puddles in your yard, you may be able to better understand why and what you can do. The guide provides step by step instructions to troubleshooting common drainage and erosion issues. Some problems come with simple fixes such as making sure your gutters are clean to more complex issues that may require bringing in a professional. Not only do drainage problems affect the appearance of your lawn but also encourage run-off, which not only removes the nutrients from your soil but ultimately has a negative effect on the quality of the water in our streams and rivers. For more information and to visit this guide, please go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/drainageproblem](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/drainageproblem).

SURPLUS@FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV



## Buy from the County and Help the Environment

By using the county's public auction, residents can save money and the environment at the same time. You can furnish a home office, college dorm or apartment, create a home gym or set up a kid fun room at a fraction of the cost. For additional information about acquiring Fairfax County surplus property, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpsm/surplus.htm>. Select the Fairfax County Auctions link and start shopping.



**NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY:** Bike to Work Day will take place on Friday, May 16, 2014. Come join over 10,000 metro area bikers for a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. To get additional information please visit [www.biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org); registration for the event opens March 1<sup>st</sup>. To find the most convenient bicycle route, contact the Fairfax County Department of Transportation's bicycle program staff at 703-877-5600, TTY 711 or email [bicycleprograms@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:bicycleprograms@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## 2014 SPRINGfest Fairfax

Come Celebrate **Earth Day and Arbor Day** with Fairfax County. Please join us on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm, at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, VA 22079. For more information, please visit [www.springfestfairfax.org](http://www.springfestfairfax.org) or contact Jen Cole, Clean Fairfax Council at [jen@cleanfairfax.org](mailto:jen@cleanfairfax.org) or at 703-324-5471.

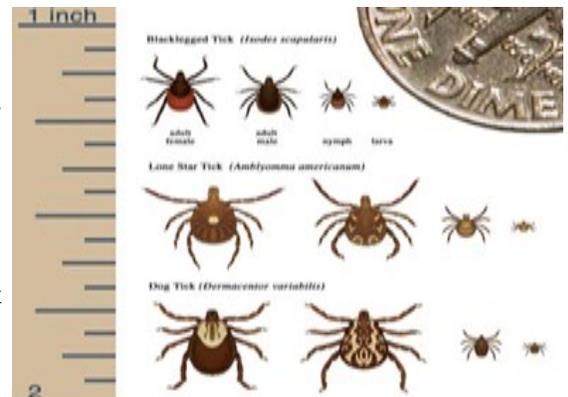


After this unusually cold winter, everyone seems anxious for warmer weather and the enjoyment of spending time outdoors. With that, we become more aware of the problems that can be caused from exposure to ticks or mosquitos. The county's Health Department is aware and responsive to these concerns. Surveillance is one of the key components of the Disease Carrying Insects Program (DCIP). Every summer, the Fairfax County Health Department traps mosquitoes and ticks as part of routine surveillance for West Nile virus and Lyme disease.

Traps are set up in dozens of locations throughout the Fairfax community. Information on mosquitoes and ticks is gathered daily and analyzed on a weekly basis using a variety of sampling and analytical methods. The resulting data are used to monitor public health risk levels and enable the Health Department to act quickly when these risk levels are elevated. View the Fairfax County mosquito and tick surveillance summary data (2002-2012) on the website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/wnvactivity.htm#mosq>.

**Mosquitoes & West Nile Virus Prevention:** Learn how to help control the mosquito population in your own neighborhood and to protect yourself and your family from mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile virus at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/>. A single mosquito bite can give you West Nile virus. Why take a chance?

**Ticks & Lyme Disease Prevention:** Learn how to prevent tick bites, which is the best way to prevent tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease. Get prevention tips and learn about the Health Department's free tick identification service at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/lyme-disease.htm>. Pictured are the three tick species found in Fairfax County that can transmit disease to humans. Please go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/tickscommon.htm> to view the tick species in more detail.



## Land Use Updates

### **Tysons Corner Plan Implementation**

The new Comprehensive Plan for Tysons envisions up to 100,000 residents and 200,000 jobs by 2050. The plan focuses 75 percent of future development within a half mile of the four new metro stations. For more details about the plan please visit the website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/>. To review approved and pending Tysons rezoning applications, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/development/>.

The Park Authority, Department of Planning and Zoning and the Office of Community Revitalization have been engaged in an effort to develop a comprehensive park system master plan for Tysons. The Tysons Park System Master Plan will complement and refine the existing Tysons Corner Urban Center Plan in the Comprehensive Plan. Refinements to the Tysons park system plan will provide more detail during the review of redevelopment proposals to ensure that the right park types are planned in the right locations. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/facilities/>

### **Merrifield Updates**

Three mixed use projects in Merrifield are currently under construction: **Mill Creek Residential**, developer of the 15-acre mixed-use redevelopment of the Dunn Loring Metro Station is constructing the second and final phase of the new WMATA parking garage and the second residential building (Avenir Place). This project will include 373 more apartments, a Harris-Teeter grocery store and ground floor retail space. The WMATA garage will be completed in the fall of this year. The completed 2,000 WMATA parking garage will replace the previous 1,300 surface parking spaces, and will provide new covered bus bays and kiss and ride facilities. The residential and the retail component are anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2015.

DFS Group, the developer of the **Halstead Square** mixed use project, has started construction of their fourth and final residential building. This development, located south of the Dunn Loring/Merrifield Metro Station on Halstead Square Road and Gallows Road, will include 200 apartment units and 2,500 sq. ft. of ground floor retail space and will be completed in 2015.

Edens, the developer of the **Mosaic District in Merrifield**, is opening more retail stores and restaurants. The first phase of the development fronting Lee Highway includes an urban Target store, hotel, grocery store, ground floor retail, restaurant space, a new movie theater and a one acre urban park. EYA has sold all 120 townhomes. Avalon Mosaic is leasing their 531 unit apartment building above ground floor retail space. Mill Creek is currently constructing 251 units in two multifamily buildings adjacent to the movie theater that will accommodate more retail and restaurant space. EYA has submitted a rezoning proposing the development of 25 more townhomes replacing an industrial scrap yard. This pending zoning application will go to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors for public hearings in the spring of this year.

### **The Arts Council of Fairfax County and the Fairfax Symphony are moving to Merrifield!**

Their shared new home fronts on Prosperity Ave, just west of the Dunn Loring-Merrifield Metro Station. The proffered office space is integrated in the ground floor of the parking garage of the 11 story Prosperity Flats apartment building at 2704 Dorr Ave. They plan to move in by May of this year.

### **New “ Merrifield Center” Under Construction**

The construction of a new community services building located at the corner of Willow Oaks and Williams Drive will be completed in the fall of 2014. The new building will replace the Woodburn Center and will house the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board’s emergency and crisis stabilization services as well as outpatient services and supports, intensive case management, psychiatric services, medication management and wellness and health promotion services. The facility will also include a primary health care clinic, a pharmacy (open to anyone in the community), a consumer resource center and a child care center for women receiving treatment for substance use disorder. This state of the art mental health facility has been designed to deliver therapeutic services in a secure, warm and welcoming environment. Many of the therapeutic design considerations, including open views, natural light and outdoor green spaces, contributed to the building achieving a LEED silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.



### **Establishment of Tinner Hill Park/Historic Site**

The Tinner Hill Park/Historic Site has been established after many years of planning and coordination between Fairfax County, the City of Falls Church, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation. The Tinner Hill Park/Historic Site will commemorate and preserve the rich early 20<sup>th</sup> century civil rights history of the site. The one half acre site owned by the city and county straddles the boundary between both jurisdictions. The site is the location of the former home of Joseph Tinner. The home was the locus of where Mr. Tinner and Dr. E.B. Henderson and other African American residents met and worked to reinstate and protect the civil rights of African Americans living in the Falls Church area. The site will be managed by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority with the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation assisting with the design of the park to facilitate the historic interpretation of the site. The Foundation will lead independent fundraising efforts.

### **Greater Hillwood Development Updates**

Redevelopment of the 19 acre Hillwood Square Cooperative located on Cherry Street has begun. Avalon Bay, the developer of **Hillwood Square** has revised their plan to incorporate rental townhomes, a reconfigured clubhouse layout, and more open space. The revised plan lowers the total density by 77 units (461 units to 384 total units). With the demolition of the existing 160 homes a net of 224 new units will be constructed over the next 22 months. The units facing Cherry Street will be built first. This phasing will insulate Cherry Street from construction internal to the site. The project will be finished in the second quarter of 2016.

The 8 story, 160 room **Hampton Inn Seven Corners** hotel is under construction. The hotel, located off the Rt. 50 service drive and South Street, was approved in 1970 as a building with 182 rooms and about 20' taller. The hotel will have an indoor pool and will be accessed from the Route 50 service drive with no direct access to South Street. The hotel will open at the end of March 2015.

Immediately adjacent to the Hampton Inn, **JBGR** will develop a 3-5 story 174 unit apartment building, with 14 attached townhomes facing South Street and 14,000 sq. ft. of retail and service uses fronting on Rt. 50. Construction is anticipated to begin later this year. The previous zoning approvals from 1970 could have accommodated a third thirteen story office building, similar to the two existing office buildings at Rt. 50, South Street and Hillwood Avenue.

### **Residential Studio Units (RSU) Zoning Ordinance Amendment**

The Planning Commission RSU Committee is continuing to review a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment that would establish a new use of Residential Studios. Generally, Residential Studios would consist of small (zero bedroom) efficiency units located in multiple family dwelling buildings and would be allowed with the approval of a special exception. The amendment proposes a number of additional standards to address factors related to affordability, operation of the development, access, and compatibility of the use at the specific development site, among others. The Planning Commission RSU Committee review of the proposed amendment may result in additional revisions. Their progress can be followed at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/rsu/rsu.htm> . The January 6, 2014, Planning Commission RSU Committee Draft Amendment can be reviewed at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/rsu/1\\_6\\_14\\_draft\\_res\\_studio\\_amendment.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/rsu/1_6_14_draft_res_studio_amendment.pdf).

**If you have any land use questions please contact my aide, Michael Wing, at 703-560-6946.**

To review the status of other pending zoning applications in Providence, utilize the following link: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/>. Residents can also review pending applications using an interactive map: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/staffreports/activecasesmap/>. Resources and Information about Planning & Zoning in Fairfax County: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/resources/>.

### **Volunteer to Protect Nursing Home Residents' Rights**

The purpose of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is to advocate for persons receiving long-term care services to ensure that the residents' rights are being protected and to help residents with problems that they are unable to resolve alone. The program is looking for people who are empathetic, diplomatic, assertive and skilled communicators to be Volunteer Ombudsmen. As a volunteer you dedicate four hours per week for one year. Training is provided and the next two, 2-day training classes will begin on March 17 and again on March 27. For additional information please visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/LTCOmbudsman](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/LTCOmbudsman) or call 703-324-5861.

### **Change in Locations Accepting Tax Payments**

Fairfax County publishes "Tax Facts" which provides basic information about Fairfax County taxes including personal property, vehicle registration, tax relief, deadlines, real estate, business, professional and occupational license, penalties, reporting tax evaders, other taxes and fees and ways to pay. "Tax Facts" is available online at <http://www.slideshare.net/fairfaxcounty/fy2014-tax-facts-2-29396657>. **Please note this change: Previously Wells Fargo accepted tax payments at its branches. Effective January 1, 2014, Wells Fargo branches no longer accept tax payments.**



## Silver Line Testing Continues

Construction of Phase 1 of the Silver Line has finally passed the 99% mark. Though there is an end in sight, a lot of testing and finishing touches must be done before service to Tysons and Reston begins. In early February Phase 1 contractor, Dulles Transit Partners, officially submitted a certificate of completion to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), the owner and manager of the rail project. With this submission a major step has been taken forward, and will eventually lead to MWAA transferring the Silver Line to Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to operate as part of the regional Metrorail system.

Following the submission of the certificate of completion, a 15-day analysis of information will take place by WMATA during which they will accept or reject the declaration. As of this writing, that decision has not been made. "Dulles Transit Partners made the determination that they reached substantial completion. Their declaration means they believe they have satisfied the terms of their contract and are ready to turn the project over to MWAA and WMATA for final testing and preparations for opening," according to a statement issued by the rail project. MWAA must be sure that the declaration includes a host of materials, including deliverables spelled out in the construction contract such as:

- Delivery of spare parts and maintenance manuals
- Evidence supporting substantial completion of all tests and all regulatory approvals
- As-built final drawings
- Certificates of Occupancy
- A list of remaining punch-list items and a schedule for completing those items

Even though Dulles Transit Partners has submitted the certificate of completion, they continue to work on a variety of tasks which include items that are considered essential for substantial completion including landscaping, paving and signage. Also, MWAA, WMATA and Dulles Transit Partners continue to work together to ensure the start of rail service as soon as possible. Once the project is turned over to WMATA additional testing will take place as safety continues to be the top priority.

## Interstate 66 Study

VDOT held their public information meeting regarding their I-66 Improvement Study on January 30, 2014. Their next steps include: reviewing comments they receive from the public meetings, continuing outreach, reviewing information received from their Request for Information, further evaluating concepts and beginning the Tier II environmental study. Concepts that were advanced from the Tier I environmental impact study include the following:

- Widen I-66 by building additional general purpose lanes that would not be tolled.
- Convert the existing high occupancy vehicle lane into either a one or two lane (in each direction) facility that would be free to carpoolers, buses and emergency vehicles. The HOV lanes would operate similar to the I-495 Express Lanes.
- Locate a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the median of I-66 extending west from Vienna to Haymarket.
- Metrorail or light rail extension west from Vienna to either Centreville or Haymarket.
- Improving certain interchanges and choke points, increasing connections between travel modes, enhancing traveler information and traffic operations technology and making location-specific safety improvements.

For additional information including documents from the Tier I environmental impact study or materials from public information meetings, please visit [www.helpfix66.com](http://www.helpfix66.com) or call VDOT at 1-800-FOR-ROAD.



## Spring Update from Providence School Board Member Patricia Reed

Thanks to everyone who has written me, attended a Board meeting, or community event. You are being heard and you are making a difference! Here are some of the current issues facing our county schools.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER DECISIONS:** Spring may be “just around the corner” but it can’t come soon enough! This winter’s cold and snow has been a challenge to staff as they determined whether to delay or close schools for the safety of our students. Regardless of their decision, we heard simultaneously from parents who supported and opposed it. That’s understandable when we consider that Fairfax County encompasses approximately 400 square miles. While one area of the county had snow covered streets that hadn’t been plowed, other sections had completely clear roads safe for travel. The most frequently asked question was “How does FCPS make these decisions?” If you would like to know, please check this webpage: [www.fcps.edu/news/weatherdecision.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/news/weatherdecision.shtml). Since we exceeded our “snow day” allotment, we’ve revised our student calendar to include instructional days on February 17<sup>th</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**ADVOCATING ON CAPITOL HILL:** As the School Board’s Federal Liaison, I attended the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Federal Relations Network (FRN) conference in Washington, DC. I met with our Virginia Senators and northern Virginia Congressmen to bring attention to our schools’ successes, concerns, and needs. Key issues raised were impact of budget cuts, need to reauthorize and fully fund key foundational legislative programs, and flexibility in implementing federal goals. I also talked about the need for increased preschool funding. Studies document the long-term positive outcomes for children who attend a quality preschool program, especially when coupled with comprehensive services (e.g., health, nutrition, family services). An investment in early education results in less costly future expenses to schools and society for remediation, intervention, and retention.

**Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ) ADMISSIONS PROCESS CHALLENGES:** Due to technological difficulties, many students experienced problems completing the Student Information Sheet (SIS) and essay portion of the TJ admissions test on January 25, 2014. As a result, FCPS determined the best way to ensure fairness and reduce stress for all students would be to re-administer the SIS and essay. Prompts from the January 25 test in a fillable PDF form were provided to all students which allowed them to prepare for the re-administration. Students were able to complete the SIS and essay at their convenience between February 6 and February 11, and affirmed that the work was their own. The admission’s timeline was not changed. Applicants will be notified of their admission offer (or denial) by late March.

### **INADEQUATE FUNDING FOR CAPITAL NEEDS:**

Fairfax County School Board policy states that schools should be renovated every 20 years; but, the current renovation cycle stands at 34 years and is projected to extend. The primary cause of the elongated cycle is increased student enrollment. During the past six years, our enrollment grew by more than 17,000 students. To accommodate this growth, FCPS was compelled to divert capital funding to construction of additional capacity throughout the county, using monies that had been budgeted for routine building maintenance and school renovations. I am concerned that the delayed renovation cycle creates inequitable educational opportunities, particularly at the high school level, with older buildings trying to provide state of the art science and computer labs to meet 21<sup>st</sup> Century curriculum standards. FCPS has five high schools in this category, two of which (Falls Church and Oakton) serve Providence District students. These “legacy” high schools were built in the 1960’s and some are not scheduled for a complete renovation until the 2020 decade.

In partnership with Mason District member Sandy Evans, I proposed a resolution to the FY 2015-19 Capital Improvement Plan directing staff to identify methods by which renovations could be completed sooner at the “legacy high schools” and to present those options to our Board no later than July 2014. The Board approved our resolution and also agreed to discuss and resolve key FCPS infrastructure policy issues in spring, 2014. As a member of the joint county Supervisor/School Board Infrastructure Financing Committee, I continue to work with my colleagues to identify potential solutions to the staggering capital needs across all county services.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE:** Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will sponsor its ninth annual special education conference, titled *Parents + Educators + Students = Success*, on Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Woodson High School. Ellen Galinsky, an early childhood expert, president of the Families and Work Institute, and author of *Mind in the Making* will be the keynote presenter. Galinsky will lead a breakout workshop following the presentation. Parents and educators can also attend over 40 workshops and 75 exhibits to learn about the latest research, strategies, special education services, and community resources for students with disabilities. A list of conference workshops and registration information is available online or by calling 703-204-3941.

As always, please contact me at [Patricia.Reed1@fcps.edu](mailto:Patricia.Reed1@fcps.edu) with questions, suggestions, opinions or invitations to school and community events. I look forward to working with you for the benefit of our Providence District schools and community.

**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: 703-360-7273

<b>Adult Education</b>	703-658-1201	<b>Alcohol/drug abuse services</b>	703-359-7040
<b>Animal Control</b>	703-691-2131	<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>Zoning Violations</b>	703-324-1300
<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>	703-324-5514
<b>Recycling InfoLine</b>	703-324-5052	<b>School-Age Child Care Program (SACC)</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>	703-802-3322
<b>VDOT</b>	800-367-7623	<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.