



# The Providence Report

Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Volume XV

Winter/Spring 2004

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## Participate in the process

### *County budget process open to the public*

There are many ways that you can participate in this year's budget process. The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on March 29, 30 and 31. In addition, all hearings and workshops for the budget process may be viewed on Cable Channel 16 or on the County's website ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)). Please call the Clerk to the Board to sign up to testify at public hearings at (703) 324-3151. Copies of the budget are available online and in public libraries, as well as at the Providence District office. Supervisor Smyth welcomes your suggestions and views. ▪

## James Lee Community Center re-opening

The James Lee Community Center will re-open on May 22, 2004 at 1 p.m. A community celebration will be held at the Center until 5 p.m. The expansion of the center from 34,400 sq. feet to 57,400 sq. feet will offer an increase in social and recreational program opportunities for school-age children as well as adults and senior citizens. ▪

For more information and for material not in this printed newsletter, visit us online at:

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/pd/homepage.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/pd/homepage.htm)

## A message from Supervisor Smyth...

As I write this message, it is still technically winter. But here at the Providence District office we are thinking about spring. When my staff and I moved into the office in January, we took care of spring cleaning. We sorted through files, moved the furniture, and stayed out of the way while the walls were painted and the carpeting cleaned. Now we are settled in and happy to invite everyone to stop by the office and meet the new staff, which includes Tania Hossain-Almaraz, Margaret Tulloch, Michael Aho, and Debbie Wisoff. Mike Wing and Ana Tolentino, who worked with Gerry Connolly for the past few years, have kindly helped out in the office during the transition.

While we have some new faces in the Providence District office, we are continuing many of the events that have become Providence traditions. Our first event for spring will be our **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Workshop**, which will be held March 20<sup>th</sup>. Then in April we will open the nomination period for the **Area Plan Review (APR)** to be followed with the formation of the task force later this year. Early in June we will have the return of **Nottoway Nights** at Nottoway Park. More information on each of these events is included in this newsletter.

One other tradition that we will continue in the Providence District office is that of public service. The Supervisor's office exists to help the people who live in our district. Please contact us whenever you have a question or need assistance. ▪

*Linda*

## News from the parks

### **Providence District Park Authority Board Member Joanne Malone**

With this inclement weather besieging us, the Providence and Oak Marr Recreation Centers offer a pleasant and fun place to be. Come join us and look into our Healthy Heart pass, classes for young and old and good times swimming, playing racquetball, walleyball, dancing and getting into shape.

The Fairfax Park Authority is seeking a 2004 Park Bond Referendum. We will be having public meetings in each magisterial district to hear first-hand from Fairfax County citizens about what they want from their parks. The meeting for Providence will be held at Providence Recreation Center Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 pm. There will be more information forthcoming over the next few months. Please mark this date on your calendar.

We are pleased to announce the approaching completion of renovations at Circle Towers Park with a new playground, trails and lighting and irrigation of the softball field. Providence and Oak Marr Recreation Centers have undergone renovations and we appreciate your favorable comments on the improvements.

For more information about the draft plan, visit the Park Authority website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) or contact Irish Grandfield, project manager, at 703-324-8725 or Joanne Malone, Providence Representative to the Park Authority Board at [Jet1malone@aol.com](mailto:Jet1malone@aol.com). ▪

## Senior tax relief & assistance

The Department of Tax Administration will be available for assistance at the Providence District Supervisor's Office on March 19, 2004 from 9am – 2pm. Please call Tania Hossain-Almaraz to schedule an appointment at (703) 560-6946.

To qualify for a Real Estate tax exemption under the Tax Relief Program, the following requirements must be met:

- The applicant must be a resident of Fairfax County as of December 31 of the previous year and reside in the dwelling.
- The applicant must be at least 65 years of age, or permanently and totally disabled as of December 31 of the previous year.
- If the dwelling is jointly owned by an applicant and spouse, either the applicant or the spouse must be at least 65 years of age or older, or permanently and totally disabled.
- The gross income from all sources of the owners of the dwelling and any relatives of the owners who reside in the dwelling may not exceed \$52,000. The following income limitations and percentage of relief apply:

<i>Gross Income</i>	<i>Amount of Tax Relief</i>
\$40,000 or less	100%
\$40,001 to \$46,000	50%
\$46,001 to \$52,000	25%

For each relative (other than spouse) residing in the dwelling, the first \$6,500 of income may be excluded. Disabled applicants may exclude the first \$7,500 of income. The total combined net assets of owners of the dwelling and of the spouse of any owner who resides in the dwelling may not be greater than \$240,000 (excluding the value of the dwelling and up to one acre of land where it is situated).

For an application, call (703) 222-8234 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays or download the tax relief application from this website [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta). Those with hearing impairments may call TTY: (703) 222-7594.

More information about Senior Tax Relief can be viewed on Cable Channel 16 via programming heading "Tax Relief Made Simple." Viewing times are on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:20 p.m. and on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 1:20 p.m. ▪



# Area Plans Review (APR)

**Your chance to participate!**

## Introduction:

The 2004 North County Cycle APR process is getting underway. For those of you unfamiliar with the APR process, it represents an opportunity to submit a nomination for consideration as an amendment to the Area Plans volumes of the Comprehensive Plan, the plan which guides land use decisions in Fairfax County. Anyone may submit a nomination for consideration. Furthermore, any interested parties may review the nominations, attend Task Force meetings, review Department of Planning and Zoning staff reports, and air their views in person or in writing at public hearings before the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. The scope of the APR process will be the site-specific land use and related transportation access and circulation recommendations found in the Area Plans. Nominations proposing amendments affecting countywide systems, such as transportation networks, trails, parks and public facilities, are not within the scope of APR and will be addressed as part of the County's ongoing review of its public facilities.

## For More Information:

The Department of Planning and Zoning's *Citizen's Guide to the 2004 North County Area Plans Review* is now available on the web at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz). This guide provides an invaluable overview of the APR process. The Department of Planning and Zoning also offers a helpful email announcement service providing timely announcements about the APR process and other related issues. To sign up for the Comprehensive Plan Announcements service, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists/). To obtain further information about the APR process or to discuss particular issues, please contact the Planner of the Day at the Department of Planning and Zoning at (703) 324-1380.

## Schedule:

This spring, our office will send letters to all of the established homeowner, civic, and community associations in the District informing them of the upcoming APR process. As in the past, the Providence District will continue to have one of the most inclusive Task Force memberships in the County. Each association interested in participating may appoint a representative and alternate to the Task Force. While the Task Force appointments will officially take place June through September, we encourage associations to begin thinking about the upcoming APR process. Likewise, we urge citizens interested in submitting nominations, to begin preparing their nominations in anticipation of the start of the nomination submission period this April.

Nomination Submission Period	April 12 – May 21, 2004
Task Force Appointments	June 1 – September 3, 2004
Task Force Meetings	September 7, 2004 – January 7, 2005
Nomination Withdrawal Deadline	January 10, 2005
Release of Staff Reports (3 to 4 weeks prior to scheduled public hearing)	March 2005
Task Force Reports to Planning Commission (3 to 4 weeks prior to scheduled public hearing)	March 2005
Planning Commission Public Hearings and Mark-up (dates announced in January 2005)	March – May 2005
Board of Supervisors Public Hearings and Mark-up (dates announced in January 2005)	June – July 2005

*(Please note that the Planning Commission may adjust this tentative schedule as necessary.)* •

# Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Plan 2003-2023

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requires jurisdictions in the Commonwealth to submit new Solid Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) by July 1, 2004.

## About the SWMP

The SWMP provides an integrated management system and long-range planning for all trash and recycling for the next 20 years.

## Integrated management

Solid waste includes almost everything we throw away or recycle, including yard waste, brush, household trash, recyclables, commercial trash, industrial waste, and construction debris. An integrated management system controls everything that happens to solid waste: collection, transfer, recycling, and disposal. The SWMP will identify and plan for all aspects of a high-quality integrated solid waste management system for Fairfax County.

## Long-range planning

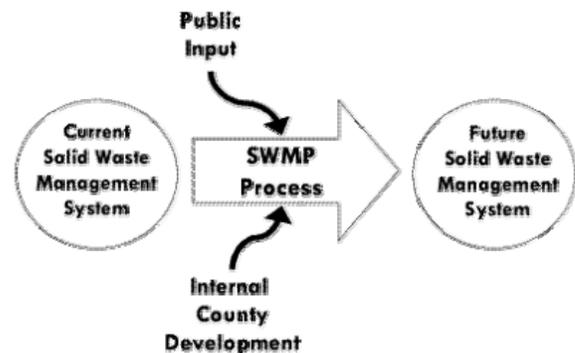
The SWMP will project waste management needs for our expanding population, regulatory requirements, and technological developments for the next 20 years. This will help us use the SWMP process to identify strategies to preserve our environmental quality of life.

<b>Timeline</b>	
Fairfax County will submit its Solid Waste Management Plan to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by June 2004.	
Public meetings	April-November 2003
Circulation of draft for public comment	January-March 2004
Public Hearing	March or May 2004
Submission of SWMP to Virginia DEQ	June 2004

## The SWMP Process

The Solid Waste Management Plan outlines an environmentally safe and publicly-approved system for the movement of trash, recyclables, and all other wastes from their sources to final management sites.

The diagram below shows how citizens, professionals, and County staff will work together in developing the plan. At the end of the process, Fairfax County will have a plan that ensures the waste management system will meet our needs for the next twenty years.



The Solid Waste Management Plan needs public input from residents, businesses...everyone! Use the contact information to find out more! Call or email us with questions or comments! Fill out the Opinion Survey at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/DPWES/swmp/swmp-presentation-1.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/DPWES/swmp/swmp-presentation-1.htm)

Attend a community meeting! Participate!

For more information, contact:

Linda Boone - Phone: 703-324-5045 / Fax: 703-324-3950 / TTY 1-800-828-1120. ■

Magisterial districts – Providence borders 6 of the 8 other Fairfax County districts. It also borders the Town of Vienna and Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.



## Transportation updates

Although there are many projects going on in Fairfax County, in this edition of *The Providence Report* we will highlight five major projects:

### Route 50 @ Annandale Rd. intersection improvements

Final project design is expected in June 2004 with land acquisition beginning in January 2005, the advertisement for bid to be distributed in February 2005 and estimated project completion is in October 2005, pending funding availability.

### Gallows Rd. @ Hummer Rd. & Annandale Rd. intersection improvements

Final project design has been completed and land acquisition efforts have been ongoing due to unexpectedly high appraisals. New appraisals are being negotiated and the project is scheduled to be advertised for bid in June 2004. Funding for the project is estimated to be just under \$1 million.

### Route 50 and Waples Mill Rd. intersection improvements

Final plans were submitted for review in January and land acquisition is scheduled to begin in October 2004 with the advertisement for bid in January 2005 and a completion date estimated in June 2006. Funding for the project is estimated to be approximately \$2 million, however it is not yet fully funded.

### West Falls Church Parking Garage (Metro)

A 1,000 space garage is being built and the groundbreaking was held in February 2004. The cost is estimated to be \$16.8 million. Metro and various County agencies successfully worked together in this project.

### Spring Hill Rd. from Route 7 to International Drive

A final design is expected in April 2004 with land acquisition beginning shortly thereafter and advertisement for bid in December 2004. The project is estimated to cost \$7.8 million and will entail the widening of Spring Hill Rd. to four lanes. ▪

## Watershed update



Potomac River Greenways Coalition, Inc. (PRCG) is offering a free Master Watershed Steward Program (MWSP) for Fairfax County residents interested in learning about watersheds and how to protect streams that flow into their sources of drinking water - the Potomac River and Occoquan Reservoir.

**What:** The MWSP consists of eight, 2 ½ hour sessions focusing on technical and organizational information related to watershed management.

**When:** March 8, March 22, April 12, April 26, May 10, May 24, June 14 and June 21 – all sessions are held from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

**Where:** The workshops will be held at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA, with the exception of the kicking off session March 8 that will be held at a the Mason District Government Building conference room.

For more information, call Krystal Kearns at (703) 324-1426 or email at [prgc\\_krystalkearns@yahoo.com](mailto:prgc_krystalkearns@yahoo.com) ▪

## School news

**by Providence District School Board Member  
Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner**

I appreciate the invitation by our Supervisor to provide Providence residents information about our Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). I will write about two important areas – the budget and the superintendent replacement process -- that have been given substantial attention since I took office as the new School Board member for Providence replacing Ernestine Heastie.

### ***Budget***

The School Board in a 12-0 vote adopted its advertised FY 2005 budget of \$1.8 billion, which holds the line on operating costs while working to keep FCPS competitive in the market for excellent employees. (continued on pg. 9)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Workshop

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Providence District Workshop has become a wonderful community tradition. It will once again be held at Luther Jackson Middle School on Saturday, March 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For those of you who have never participated, we encourage you to come and learn with us.

Participants will have the opportunity to select two workshops from the numerous offerings. Past presenters include the International Dark Skies Association, the Virginia Native Plant Society, Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist Earl Hodnett, the National Wildlife Federation, the Eco-Stewards Alliance and the Fairfax County and Northern Virginia Regional Park Authorities.

This year, Dr. Dudley Rochester, an advocate for clean air issues through the American Lung Association of Virginia and the Virginia Clean Air Advocates, will be participating in the workshop. Dr. Dudley was head of the Division of Pulmonary Medicine at the University of Virginia from 1976-1994 and is an alumnus of Columbia University and the US Army Medical Corps. The Potomac River Greenway Coalition, various Fairfax County agencies, and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District will also participate. ▪

## Staff working areas

Supervisor Smyth's staff handles casework and other matters according to the following distribution schedule:

Michael Aho	Transportation (County, VDOT, etc.); streetlights/street signs; parks/trails; public works; watersheds; technology; Providence district website; <i>The Providence Report</i> ; Nottoway Nights
Tania Hossain-Almaraz	Human services; consumer protection; legislation/budget; schools/libraries; economic development; animal control; housing/community development; zoning
Margaret Tulloch	Land use; comprehensive planning; special exceptions; zoning ordinance changes & evaluation; proffer interpretation; Area Plan Review
Debbie Wisoff	Supervisor's calendar; police; boards, authorities and commissions

## Mosquitoes and health

### As spring and summer approach, remember to "TIP & TOSS"

Mosquitoes need only a few tablespoons of water to breed. To eliminate mosquitoes breeding in your backyard, check the following areas and tip containers and toss any standing water:

- Roof gutters: clean out leaves and debris blocking and holding water
- Discarded cans & containers: remove, store inside or turn upside down (i.e. trash cans, trash can lids, buckets, bottles, flower pots, pet water bowls)
- Old tires: store tires where they cannot collect rainwater
- Bird baths: clean and change the water every five to seven days
- Wading pools: change water regularly and turn over when not in use
- Drainage ditches: keep open and free from debris holding water
- Canoes & boats: cover with a tight-fitting tarp or turn upside down
- Tarps: remove sagging areas
- Ornamental ponds: stock with small fish
- Puddle and swampy areas: drain or back fill
- Miscellaneous: Empty water from toys, wheelbarrows, wagons, unused hot tubs, rain barrels, flat roofs, plastic drain pipes and in-ground pipes



### PREVENTION

Although the threat of West Nile virus is rare, we should take all reasonable steps to protect ourselves. The Health Department continues to monitor the occurrence of West Nile virus and asks residents to be more conscious of the need to eliminate mosquito-breeding areas around their homes. Mosquitoes are poor fliers, so if they are a problem where you live, they most likely were bred in a still water source on or around your property. The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate or treat the standing water where the larvae live. Otherwise, once adult mosquitoes have emerged, chemical controls give only temporary relief. Running streams and creeks with any water movement or ponds with predators such as fish, frogs or dragonflies are not suitable habitats for mosquitoes. ▪

## Nottoway Nights 2004

Mark your summer calendars 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 Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Supervisor Smyth thanks our many business and other private sponsors who make these free concerts possible. Furthermore, this program could not happen without the support of a number of local volunteers who do everything from helping to pass out programs to orchestrating parking. If you or your organization would like to help, please call our office at (703) 560-6946. This year's schedule includes:

<i>June 3</i>	<b>Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition</b> (Bluegrass)
<i>June 10</i>	<b>The Fabulettes</b> ("Girl Group Sound" of the 1960s)
<i>June 17</i>	<b>Junkyard Saints</b> (Zydeco)
<i>June 24</i>	<b>Mando Mafia</b> (Appalachian)
<i>July 1</i>	<b>Washington Toho Koto Society</b> (Japanese)
<i>July 8</i>	<b>Jambulay</b> (Caribbean)
<i>July 15</i>	<b>Richard Walton Group</b> (Jazz)
<i>July 22</i>	<b>Harmonia</b> (Eastern European Folk/Gypsy)
<i>July 29</i>	<b>Mariachi Las Estrellas</b> (Mariachi)
<i>August 5</i>	<b>Rio Drive</b> (Country)
<i>August 12</i>	<b>Swing Shift</b> (Swing)
<i>August 19</i>	<b>Last Train Home</b> (Country)
<i>August 26</i>	<b>Young and Rollins Band</b> (Salsa)

*(Type of band/group is in parentheses.)*

Concerts are cancelled in case of rain. Please call (703) 938-7532 (x 2 opt. 2) for cancellation information during the series. Nottoway Park is located at 9601 Courthouse Road in Vienna. ■



## School news, continued from pg. 5

Details of the budget can be found at <http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/news/fy2005.htm>. The advertised budget represents an increase of approximately \$136.4 million, or 8.2 percent, over the FY 2004 approved budget. The increase is due primarily to compensation initiatives, benefit costs and membership growth.

Our overall student membership growth has slowed over the last several years, but the associated savings have been offset by the continued increases in the number of students with disabilities and with limited English proficiency. The proposed budget meets the needs of these changing demographics. In addition, a new staffing realignment will generate smaller class size in many of our schools and increase system flexibility. In addition, the realignment will continue the trend toward decentralization and increased budget management at the school level.

This advertised budget is based on assumptions about state and local tax revenues that remain highly uncertain until the Virginia General Assembly and the Board of Supervisors act on their respective budgets. Of note, when compared with other school divisions in Virginia, Fairfax funds a much larger portion of its school budget with local funds. The average Virginia school division receives half of its financial support from its local government, while FCPS must rely on local funds for more than three-fourths of its budget because of state funding formulas. We will need to close any gap that remains between our projected revenues and those which our state and local partners can provide; this action will take place when we adopt our final budget in May.

### Superintendent Replacement

As the community knows, Dr. Domenech will retire and leave FCPS as of March 5<sup>th</sup>. The School Board has selected a search firm to help us identify candidates of the caliber needed to lead our school system. Details on the search process and a draft superintendent profile can be found at <http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/news/supt.htm>. Please offer your suggestions for the characteristics we should be looking for by going to this site or by e-mailing me at [pneichner@fcps.edu](mailto:pneichner@fcps.edu) or call me at (703) 246-4783. I am honored to be of service to Providence District on the FCPS School Board. ■

# Must-Have Phone Numbers



**Providence Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth**  
 Tel.: (703) 560-6946 / Fax: (703) 207-3541 / TTY: 711

<b>Adult education</b>	(703) 227-2200	<b>Alcohol/drug services</b>	(703) 359-7040
<b>Animal shelter</b>	(703) 830-3310	<b>Child care</b>	(703) 449-9555
<b>Consumer affairs</b>	(703) 222-8435	<b>Courts</b>	(703) 691-7320
<b>Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV)</b>	(866) 368-5463	<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) 246-2126	<b>Gang Unit-Police</b>	(703) 246-4548
<b>Human services</b>	(703) 222-0880	<b>Office for Women</b>	(703) 324-5730
<b>Park Authority</b>	(703) 324-8700	<b>Police (non-emergency)</b>	(703) 691-2131
<b>Tax info.</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 info.</b>	(703) 246-2502	<b>Senior citizen info.</b>	(703) 324-5411
<b>Traffic tickets</b>	(703) 246-3764	<b>Trash pick up (County)</b>	(703) 802-3322
<b>VDOT</b>	(703) 383-VDOT	<b>Voting information</b>	(703) 222-0776
<i>For any number listed here or elsewhere in TTY, please call (703) 803-7914 TTY or (703) 222-0880 voice.</i>			

Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth  
 8739 Lee Highway  
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## The Providence Report

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

