



The Providence Report

Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

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A message from Supervisor Smyth ...

Fall has arrived with its rounds of festivals, school activities, neighborhood gatherings and new projects. This issue of the Providence Report covers a number of these happenings along with updates on recent events and ongoing initiatives.

We have also included information on the upcoming elections, another annual rite of fall in Virginia. This year, in addition to voting on candidates for the United States Senate and House of Representatives, citizens will be asked to make decisions on state constitutional amendments as well as a county bond referendum.

For more details on events, please check my Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence or by calling my office. ▪

~ Linda Smyth ~

Looking for a Space for your Community Meetings?

A new Fairfax County EMS training facility and community meeting room opened in the Tysons Corner area of the Providence District in April of this year. The center is located at 7921 Jones Branch Drive. This is a convenient community meeting space that can accommodate approximately 34 people with tables or up to 60 people with seating only. This space is available to community groups on evenings and weekends, by reservation only.

More information is available by calling Alexis Battista at 703-714-6516 or 703-714-9218 or Ann Holtz at 703-803-3864 during the hours of 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, for reservations or for any additional questions you may have. ▪

Providence Perspective

The Providence District Supervisor's office has put together a work group consisting of residents and experts to bring to life a history project entitled Providence Perspectives through words and pictures. Supervisor Smyth welcomes the participation and suggestions of anyone interested in the rich history of Providence.

Providence Perspective will be conducting oral history interviews at the Merrifield Festival on October 21, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. If you would like to offer an interview, please contact the Providence District office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711. The progress of this project will be posted on the project Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/projects/perspectives.htm. ▪



Supervisor Smyth joins members of the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation, elected officials and members of the community at the unveiling of the Tinner Hill historical marker.



2006 Providence VolunteerFest® Projects *Volunteerism in Action*



Supervisor Smyth is delighted to host the 2006 Providence District VolunteerFest® Event on October 28, in conjunction with VolunteerFest® and the *National Make a Difference Day*. The week long 2006 Providence VolunteerFest® events will kick off at the Merrifield Festival on October 21 at 10 a.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church and showcase ***Volunteerism in Action*** across Providence District.

**Saturday, October 21 events will be held at Luther Jackson Middle School,
3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

- **Second Merrifield Festival** – sponsored by the Greater Merrifield Business Association.
- **Providence Perspective** – Supervisor Smyth's office will be conducting oral history interviews.
- **Health Fair** - Inova Health System will host several preventive health activities.

Saturday, October 28 events will be held throughout Providence District

- **Food Drive** - Supervisor Smyth's office/Food for Others
8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax - Food and book sale donations will be received all day from October 16 – 27 at this location.
- **Book Sale** - Friends of the Oakton Library
2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton (Unity of Fairfax Church) - Book sale will take place from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. This book sale will benefit the new Oakton Community Library, which is currently under construction next to the Unity of Fairfax Church.
- **Child ID** – Delegate Shannon's Office (35th District)
2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton (Unity of Fairfax Church) – Project time and more details will be posted on the Web site.
- **Mini Golf** – Greater Merrifield Business Association (GMBA)/Police Department/Park Authority
The GMBA and the Police Department will host a round of mini golf with students selected from the Graham Road ES.
- **Park Projects** - Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Nottoway Park
Parks located in Providence District – Projects details are available by calling 703-324-8597, TTY 711.
- **Children's Winter Clothing Collection** - Fairfax County Public Schools, Providence District School Board member and Supervisor's offices.
Schools located in Providence District – Donations will be accepted from October 16 – October 22 during school hours.
- **Horse Demonstration** – Fairfax4Horses
2841 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton – Enjoy an educational and demonstrative session about horses from 11 a.m. – noon. The location is the new Oakton Community Park opposite Mystic Meadow Way.
- **Adopt a Soldier** - James Lee Community Center
2855-A James Lee Street, Falls Church – kits will be made from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Event Promotions** – The Providence Players/Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs
2855-A James Lee Street, Falls Church (James Lee Community Center Theater) – The Providence Players 2006-2007 Season opens on October 13 at 7:30 p.m. with the production of William Saroyan's "The Time of Your Life."

Supervisor Smyth and the 2006 Providence District VolunteerFest® Committee invite you, friends, family and co-workers to participate in this year's activities.

More information on the 2006 Providence District VolunteerFest® and VolunteerFest® events are available on the following county Web site at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/projects/Vol_2006.htm or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711 or on the VolunteerFest Web site at www.volunteerfairfax.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=323 or by calling 703-246-3460, TTY 711. ▪



Construction view of the Oakton Community Library on Lynnhaven Place off Hunter Mill Road

Come Enjoy the Merrifield Festival!

October 21, 2006

from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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

The Greater Merrifield Business Association welcomes all residents to the Second Annual Merrifield Festival. Come and enjoy a day filled with the sights and sounds of Merrifield: Mr. Knick Knack's show for children; Ronald McDonald performing magic; demonstrations by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, Fairfax County Police and K-9 Unit; Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Workshop; basketball free throw competitions; sight and hearing screening hosted by the Merrifield Lion's Club; raffle items to benefit the Orphan Foundation; Inova Health System activities; plus food vendors, arts and crafts, moon bounce and face painting and much more!

More information on the festival is available on the following Merrifield Festival Web site at www.greatermerrifield.org/Festival/. ■

Family Services Volunteer Opportunities

The county's Department of Family Services (DFS) supports the well-being of families and individuals in our community, especially children and older persons who are most vulnerable. Volunteers are key to the success of many DFS programs and are especially needed right now for the following programs:

- **To help older adults and adults with disabilities** with tasks such as transportation to doctor appointments, grocery shopping, household tasks and minor home repairs, seasonal yard work, social visits, and Meals on Wheels delivery. More information is available by calling the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging's Volunteer Intake Line at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186.
- **To foster or adopt a child** in Fairfax County. Did you know that about 450 children and youth are currently in the county's foster care and adoption program? DFS has a continuing need for foster parents as well as a need for loving permanent homes for those children in foster care who cannot return to their birth families. More information is available on the following Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs or by calling 703-324-7639, TTY 703-222-9452.
- **To mentor children**, ages 5 – 12, in the DFS Be-Friend-A-Child program. Mentors enjoy one-on-one activities with a child as well as varied and fun monthly group activities. Volunteers must be at least 21 years old. More information is available on the following DFS Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/DFS/about/volops.htm# or by calling 703-324-7874, TTY 703-222-9451.
- **To mentor parents** in the DFS Be-Friend-A-Parent program by listening, learning and working together, mentors share their knowledge and empathy with parents who can benefit from having a mentor. Volunteers must be at least 21 years old. More information is available by contacting Laurie Eytel at 703-324-7871, TTY 703-222-9452. ■

Home Repair for the Elderly

The Home Repair for the Elderly Program is designed to provide minor home repairs and maintenance to eligible low and moderate income elderly homeowners, as well as to handicapped and disabled homeowners. The materials and work are grant funded by county and federal funds and are provided free of charge to eligible homeowners. This program does not provide emergency work but expedited requests will be considered. More information is available by calling 703-246-5154, TTY 703-385-3578. ■

2006 County Bond Referendum

Virginia law permits the Fairfax County government to borrow money to finance the acquisition of land, materials, and equipment to construct projects by issuing general obligation bonds. General obligation bonds obligate the county to repay investors from future tax revenue. Bond financing permits the costs of a project to be repaid over a number of years during the life of a public facility. However, before the county can incur general obligation bond debt, the voters of the county must authorize the county to borrow those funds.

► Park Bond

In order to cover the cost of new development or major renovation of Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) facilities, residents have an opportunity to vote on authorizing a maximum of \$25 million in general obligation bonds. The money raised would help the county continue to provide residents with the high caliber park services they have come to enjoy.

This funding will be used for two major programs: land acquisition and park development. The land acquisition program would receive \$10 million to obtain new park land adjacent to existing parks and in areas of high deficiency. This program also encourages the most efficient use of acquisition funds through cooperation between private sector and community organizations.

Targeting current facilities in need of improvement or renovation, the park development program would use \$15 million toward bettering our athletic fields and trails and stream crossings. Of that sum, \$10 million would apply to installing synthetic turf on twelve existing grass fields. This conversion would create approximately 62 percent more playing capacity. The remaining \$5 million would be used for design and construction of 75 miles of trails and stream crossings along the Cross County Trail.

More information on the park bond can be found on the FCPA Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/2006bond.htm. In addition, a list of completed projects funded by the 2004 Park Bond, and previous bonds, is available on the following FCPA Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/bondprojectstatus.pdf.

► Public Safety Bond

The question being presented in this bond referendum asks the voters whether the Fairfax County government should be authorized to contract a debt and issue bonds in the maximum amount of \$125 million for the purposes of providing public safety facilities. If the voters vote yes on this question, the county could borrow up to \$125 million for the following purposes:

- **Police Facilities:** The Police stations in the Fair Oaks, McLean, and Reston police districts will receive major renovation and expansion. Each of these stations is more than twenty years old, and they need to be expanded and renovated. Also, the West Ox Animal Shelter will be renovated and expanded to deal with overcrowding caused by a substantial increase in the county's pet population. An estimated \$71.1 million would be spent on these improvements.
- **Fire and Rescue Facilities:** Projects include renovations and improvements to existing fire stations and the replacement of the Great Falls Fire Station. Also, the Fire and Rescue Training Academy will be expanded and improved to keep pace with current and future capacity requirements for fire recruit training. An estimated \$29.1 million would be spent on these improvements.
- **Other Capital Facility and Security Improvements:** These funds would be used to provide major capital improvements at existing public safety facilities and criminal justice facilities, to provide security enhancements at public safety and criminal justice facilities, or to acquire land for proposed public safety projects. Also, these funds would be used to provide for replacement of heating and air conditioning systems, fire alarms, and other improvements to public safety and criminal justice facilities throughout the county. An estimated \$10.8 million would be spent on these improvements.

Continued next column >>>

General and Special Elections

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Polling locations will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, for registered voters to vote in the General Election for the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

More information on this year's General and Special Elections is available on the following Upcoming Elections Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/upcoming.htm#constitution or by calling the Registrar's Office at 703-222-0776, TTY 711. ▪

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

The following three proposed constitutional amendments will be offered to voters at the November 7, 2006 Special Election.

► Article I – Bill of Rights: Section 15-A Marriage

Shall Article 1 (the Bill of Rights) of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to state:

“That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions.

This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status of relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage.”?

YES

NO

► Article IV – Legislature: Section 14. Powers of the General Assembly; Limitations.

Shall Section 14 of Article IV of the Constitution of Virginia be amended by deleting the provision that prohibits the incorporation of churches, a provision that was ruled to be unconstitutional and therefore is now obsolete?

YES

NO

► Article X – Taxation and Finance: Section 6. Exempt Property

Shall Section 6 of Article X of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to authorize legislation to permit localities to provide a partial exemption from real property taxes for real estate with new structures and improvements in conservation, redevelopment, or rehabilitation areas?

YES

NO

More information available on the State Board of Elections Web site at www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Election_Information/ (under Candidates List & Ballot Issues)

Serving as an Election Officer

On Election Day more than 1.4 million Americans work at the polls – but more are needed. By working at the polls you will be supporting the democratic values on which our nation was built.

Serving as an election officer is a rewarding way to participate in our government and help to ensure a fair and well-organized voting process. Fairfax County needs approximately 3,000 dependable and committed citizens to serve as election officers in its 225 precincts for each General Election.

More information on serving as an election officer is available on the following Working at the Polls Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/working.htm or by calling the Registrar's Office at 703-222-0776, TTY 711. ▪

2006 County Bond Referendum

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- **Capital Renewal:** These funds would be used for renovation of existing public safety and criminal justice facilities, including the replacement of major building systems and equipment that have reached the end of their useful life, including heating, air conditioning, plumbing and electrical systems and equipment, roofs, fire alarm systems, parking lots, and other major building systems. An estimated \$14.0 million would be spent on these improvements.

More information is available on the following 2006 Bond Referendums Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/bond/ or by calling the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187, TTY 711. ▪

COUNTY LEAF COLLECTION

The county currently provides trash collection and recycling service to approximately 43,000 residential homes and seasonal vacuum leaf collection service to about 20,000 of these residences. These areas are referred to as Sanitary Districts and are charged a user fee based on the assessed individual property value and billed as a separate item on the real estate tax bill.

Creation of a Sanitary District is possible when a petition is made by a resident and supported by greater than 50% of the residents within each area of 50 homes or more. In cases where residents of an area wish to receive service and the homes are contiguous to an existing Sanitary District, they may contact the Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling at 703-802-3322 for further guidance.

If you receive this service, the county provides vacuum collection of leaves from the curb three times each season. The schedule for leaf collection varies because it is very difficult to predict when the heaviest fall of leaves will occur. In addition to weather, various operational issues such as equipment problems can affect the collection schedule.

A poster is placed in the neighborhoods that receive collection service that specifies a date. This means that the leaves should be raked or blown to the curb no later than the date specified on the poster. It does not mean that the leaves will be collected on that specific date, it only provides the earliest date at which they may be collected. These posters will be revised for each of the three collection dates. Should you not be able to get your leaves to the curb by the collection date, you will have to wait until the next scheduled collection date. It is not economically feasible for trucks to be dispatched to accommodate individual requests.

The schedule for seasonal leaf collection is available on the following Leaf Collection Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/leaf or by registering to receive updates, via e-mail, for any changes to the collection schedule or by calling the Division of Solid Waste and Recycling at 703-802-3322, TTY 711. ■

Marion Sidonia Bryant Day in Fairfax County



Supervisor Smyth presents Marion Sidonia Bryant with a proclamation in honor of her 100th birthday. Mrs. Bryant is pictured with her daughter, Mrs. Doris Mabrey, members of her family and the Board.



“Change a Light” Campaign

Did you know that if the five most used lights in every home in America were changed to an energy-efficient light bulb, the Environment Protection Agency estimates the country would see \$6 billion in energy savings. An energy-efficient light bulb uses two-thirds less energy, generates 70 % less heat and lasts up to 10 times longer. Replacing a 100-watt incandescent light bulb with a 32-watt compact fluorescent (energy-efficient) lamp will give you the same brightness and will save you at least \$30 in energy costs over the life of just that one bulb.

Fairfax County is a participant in the 2006 “Change a Light” Campaign sponsored by the National Association of Counties and Office Depot. More information on the “Change a Light” initiative is available on the following National Association of Counties Web site at www.naco.org/changealight or by calling Jeanna Gorter, Fairfax County Facilities Management Department at 703-324-2808, TTY 711. ■

Two Lane Traffic Preserved on Hunter Mill Road

Bob Adams

Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Committee

For at least 15 years, the county Transportation Plan Map (TPM) for Hunter Mill Road showed the Providence District portion of the road being expanded to four lanes. Nearly all other segments of the road, however, were designated as two lanes on the plan map.

When this was discovered by Supervisor Smyth in early 2004, she immediately supported amending the TPM to preserve the number of lanes on the existing road. Thus, she actively encouraged her Transportation Advisory Commission representative, Bob Adams, to submit a nomination amending the Comprehensive Plan to save the current character of Hunter Mill Road.

This simple nomination aroused strong opposition. The County staff rejected the nomination in June 2004 saying that transportation issues cannot be considered during the Comprehensive Plan Review process. The problem with their approach was that there was no plan for the public to review changing transportation needs and, moreover, transportation aspects of the Comprehensive Plan had not been reviewed since 1996.

As a result, Supervisor Smyth lobbied for a Transportation Plan Review process, which resulted in the initiation of such a review in December 2004. At her behest, Bob Adams re-submitted the Hunter Mill Road nomination. The public hearing and comment periods lasted throughout 2005, and the nomination garnered almost universal public support. The 2006 staff report opposed this nomination and after a public hearing in May 2006, the Planning Commission adopted the staff recommendation.

The nomination then went before the Board of Supervisors on July 10, 2006. Supervisor Smyth made a motion to delete the original four-lane language and insert two-lane language for the portion of Hunter Mill Road from Mystic Meadow Way to Vale Road.

Some supervisors opposed her motion claiming it was necessary to maintain the four lane option. Others in opposition noted that, if they amended the plan for Hunter Mill Road, then their constituents would want to make similar nominations. After much debate, a decision was deferred to July 31.

At the July 31 Board meeting, Supervisor Smyth described Hunter Mill Road's unique circumstances, including the historic resources and state funded traffic calming study that supported a reduction in the number of planned lanes. She also explained that the intersection at Route 123 and Hunter Mill Road is a bottleneck that limits the number of cars accessing Hunter Mill Road. The four lane option was not necessary.

Nevertheless, several supervisors sought to defer consideration of the issue to some future, unspecified date. The Board was almost evenly split with six members opposing the motion to defer, and four supporting it.

Once this procedural motion was denied, Supervisor Smyth's motion was adopted unanimously. The Hunter Mill Road preservation process was successfully completed in just over two and a half years through the efforts of Supervisor Smyth and all the Oakton residents who participated in the process. ■



Snow Information



When winter arrives, call 703-383-VDOT (8368), TTY 800-432-1843, to find out about road and traffic conditions in Northern Virginia. VDOT dispatchers are available to take your call 24 hours a day.

For information on the procedures related to snow removal, you may call the above number or ema. Detailed information can also be found online at www.virginiadot.org/infoservice/faq-snowremoval.asp. ■



Fairfax County Public Library
offers live homework help!
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

Anticipating Change and Positioning FCPS for the Future

Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner
School Board Member, Providence District

“Fairfax rarely waits for circumstances to compel reluctant action. Anticipating change...has been highly valued for years in the school system and the community...The culture of FCPS embraces the belief that everybody and everything can get better.”

Daniel Duke, Professor, U.Va.¹

Daniel Duke’s 2005 study of the Fairfax public school system notes that a key to our success is our willingness to both anticipate change and adapt to it. The School Board is maintaining this legacy by adjusting the curriculum to better position our 164,000 students for the 21st Century challenges they will confront, while maintaining the focus on high achievement.

Before elaborating, I note that the school system is blessed with a community that supports public education. We do not take this support for granted. We are both obligated and committed to operating the school system efficiently and to ensuring that the needed resources reach teachers and the classroom. In this regard, we are strengthening the community’s ability to hold me and the School Board accountable for our progress and our efficiency; we are in turn boosting our Board’s capacity to hold the Superintendent and the school system accountable.

We know high expectations promote high achievement. Believing this, we revisited our beliefs and our vision for the future of the school system. We revised our mission statement and gave new vigor to our goals.

We then asked the community to help us refine the goals to ensure that they reflect the community’s values and desires. In the period between February and May 2006, the Board held 33 meetings with groups representing various constituencies in Fairfax County. We conducted “District Dialogues” in each Magisterial District. We invited citizens to come and voice their views on what our students should know and be able to do in the 21st Century.

Our community continues to grow in diversity of culture, language and economics. Fairfax students reflect this diversity. Even though we are the second wealthiest county in the nation, approximately one in five students (32,500 students) is eligible for free or reduced-price meals. We serve 42,000 students with special education services. Approximately one in eight students (21,800 students) speaks English as a second language. Our students return to homes where over 140 different languages are spoken. We are challenged as never before to meet the needs of this very diverse student population.

At the same time, we believe strongly that this rich mix of cultural, language, and economic diversity provides an invaluable context for learning that will promote resilient, open, and innovative citizens. Our students are better able to compete in the global economy because of the human diversity they experience every day.

The bottom line high expectations for the school system and the children it serves are these:

- Each child is entitled to the opportunity to realize his/her fullest potential.
- Students must have command of the core academics and be armed with the best possible academic foundation upon which to build a career and be a productive contributor to society.
- Students will communicate with confidence in a 2nd language. This will mean retooling the system to deliver language instruction and practice at very young ages.
- Personal character and community responsibility will be further infused into the curriculum. Honesty and integrity, respect for others, conflict resolution skills, lifelong learning and identification of personal goals, along with practical life skills such as critical thinking, work habits, and financial competence will be further integrated into our young people’s education.

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South Railroad Street Park Master Planning

The FCPA has developed a master plan for the use of the South Railroad Street Park parcels as a local park with passive and active recreational opportunities. The objective is to preserve resources while meeting community recreational needs. To determine those needs, FCPA held a public hearing regarding the master plan on July 24, 2006, and welcomed public comments for 30 days afterward.

The master plan, which includes modifications based on input from the community, went before the Planning and Development Committee of the FCPA Board for consideration on September 13, 2006. The Board scheduled a public meeting to act on the South Railroad Street Park Master Plan on September 27, 2006. Thus far, an opening date for the park has yet to be determined. More information is available on the following park Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/railroadstreet.htm or by calling the FCPA at 703-324-8702, TTY 711. ▪



Farmer's Market at Nottoway Park

Every week, spring through fall, Nottoway Park bustles with farmers, residents and visitors of our communities. Part of the parking area springs alive with the abundant sights, sounds, smells and colors of an open air produce market. **The Farmer's Market will remain open until November 22nd.**

More information is available on the following Park Authority Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm or by calling the Park Authority at 703-324-8702, TTY 711. ▪



View of the Farmer's Market at Nottoway Park

Anticipating Change and Positioning FCPS for the Future

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The goals we have set demand that the entire system is aligned to achievement. From the superintendent's office to the classroom to the bus to the cafeteria to athletic endeavors, we are focused on collaborating to maximize student achievement.

I encourage you to read the beliefs, vision and mission statements, and student achievement goals [see <http://www.fcps.edu/schlb/strategic.htm>]. These are the Fairfax County community's goals. I encourage you to join us in working to ensure our children succeed in meeting them. Finally, please join me at a Providence District Dialogue for a discussion on these changes and challenges. ▪

Providence District Dialogue on Fairfax County Public Schools With Providence School Board Member *Phil Niedzielski-Eichner*

October 25, 2006 at 7:00 pm
Falls Church High School
7521 Jaguar Trail
Falls Church, VA 22042

¹ Daniel Duke, a professor in the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education, wrote in 2005 about the evolution of Fairfax County Public Schools entitled *Education Empire: the Evolution of an Excellent Suburban School System*. In addition to highlighting how we have achieved our success (p. 163), he also cautioned that "There are a lot of once-great school systems in America....While it requires decades to become a great school system, the time it takes to fall from greatness can be relatively brief (p. 170)."

Note from the McLean District Station

Commander Graham McGowan
Assistant Commander Ronald Novak

Summer has ended and the fall season is upon us. We would like to remind motorists and pedestrians to be mindful of each other as the daylight hours begin to diminish. Pedestrians should use defined crosswalks or cross at intersections. Motorists are reminded that they are required to yield for pedestrians in crosswalks. Pedestrians should utilize sidewalks when available. When sidewalks are not available, pedestrians should walk facing traffic so they can see the vehicles approaching. Pedestrian safety works, when both the driver and pedestrian utilize these basic safety tips.

In late July, early August, a series of street robberies occurred in the McLean District Station area. In response to these robberies additional officers were periodically assigned to the affected areas to provide increased visibility and increased criminal enforcement efforts. To assist the community further, we asked our Crime Prevention Officers to provide safety tips for the community that can be used throughout the year. We would like to share this information with you.

Personal robbery prevention can be summed up by a list of common sense tips. These suggestions may seem simplistic but they work!

- Stay tuned-in to your surroundings. Be aware of what is happening around you.
- Walk briskly and confidently. Give an appearance of "don't mess with me."
- Avoid going to ATM machines after dark.
- If you sense something wrong leave the area immediately.
- Don't flash large sums of cash, jewelry or other expensive items. They attract unwanted attention and may give a potential robber his target.
- Travel in groups to and from clubs. Avoid isolated areas, short cuts and deserted parking lots.
- If you have to use isolated areas, such as when you leave work late, have someone walk with you to your car. This applies to men and women alike. Anyone can be the victim of a robbery.
- If you see someone you consider suspicious, walk away. Go to an area where there are other people, bright lights or a telephone. Don't be afraid to call the police if you suspect you are being followed. It could be the prelude to a robbery.
- If you are the victim of a robbery follow the instructions of the robber.
- Do not argue or attempt to fight with your assailant.
- Try to remember what the robber looks like, what he/she was wearing and call the police as quickly as possible.

These tips cannot anticipate every possible situation. They can give you a basis for a plan to avoid personal robbery. If you would like more information concerning your neighborhood, or other services provided by our Crime Prevention Office, please contact the McLean District Station, Crime Prevention Office at 703-556-7750 ext. 2234 or 2227, TTY 711. ▪

RideSources Program

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) operates the RideSources program and encourages citizens to utilize this free resource. By ridesharing in carpools or vanpools, using Park & Rides and HOV lanes, or by using public transportation, commuters can save time, money and improve mobility on our roads. The RideSources program provides commuters with free ridesharing information, including ride matching assistance to form new or join existing carpools or vanpools.

More information is available on the following RideSources Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot or by calling 703-324-1111 or 703-324-1101, TTY 703-324-1102 or on the following Commuter Connections Web site at www.commuterconnections.org. ▪

Urban Planning Team

Tysons Land Use Task Force Update

The Tysons Land Use Task Force, comprised of a 35-member team representing residents and businesses throughout the county, has been charged by the Board of Supervisors with soliciting community input and making recommendations to update the 1994 Tysons Corner Comprehensive Plan to reflect the planned construction of four Metro stations.

Currently, the task force is seeking the help of a professional urban planning firm to develop a model plan for Tysons Corner that conforms to the Comprehensive Plan's objectives; the existing boundaries of Tysons Corner; the Task Force Draft Guiding Principles; and recognized best practices for Transit Oriented Development.

Updated information on the Tysons Land Use Task Force is available on the following Tysons Corner Transportation/Urban Design Study Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/ or by calling 703-324-1334, TTY 711. ▪



Working for Better Bicycling

Douglas Stewart

Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling

More residents are turning to bicycling as a healthy, inexpensive, and environmentally friendly alternative to driving. Over the past year, Supervisor Smyth has worked closely with Fairfax bicycle advocates to improve conditions for bicyclists. In September 2005, Supervisor Smyth initiated a measure to add a dedicated bicycle coordinator position to the county's TDM plan.

This past May, the Board of Supervisors approved funding for a full-time bicycle coordinator position and for the creation of a county-wide bike map. The county moved quickly, bringing on Charlie Strunk, a veteran official at Fairfax County DOT [Department of Transportation] and avid bicyclist, to fill the bike coordinator position. Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB) is a local initiative aiming to make bicycling an integral part of the county's transportation network.

While the county has taken some steps toward this goal, it won't be realized without significant citizen participation. If you're interested in making Fairfax more bicycle-friendly, consider attending one of FABB's monthly meetings this fall or sending a message to fabb@waba.org. For more information, visit www.fabb-bikes.org. ▪

Reminder of Expanded Curbside Pick-Up for Recycling

Beginning January 2006, in addition to newspaper, metal food and beverage cans, glass bottles and jars and yard waste for recycling, you can now add mixed paper, flattened cardboard and plastic bottles to your set-out for curbside recycling. Although some companies collected mixed paper, flattened cardboard and plastic bottles on a volunteer basis, they are now required to collect these additional materials.

Mixed Paper: Any color paper, magazines, phone books, cracker and cereal boxes, catalogs, junk mail, envelopes (with or without windows), newspaper, computer paper. Do not include paper plates or napkins, hardback books, wax paper.

Flattened Cardboard: Any clean cardboard can be recycled. However, it must be flattened. Do not include items with food residue such as pizza boxes.

Plastic Bottles: Plastic containers where the neck is narrower than the base. The number of the plastic does not matter. Do not include plastic containers other than bottles and jugs. Why? Plastic bottles and jugs are the easiest for recycling facilities to process and sell.

More information is available on the following county Recycling Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/announce.htm#curbside or by calling 703-324-5230, TTY 711 for residential queries and 703-324-5224, TTY 711 for commercial queries. ▪

Must-Have Phone Numbers

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

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

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

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

Adult Education	703-227-2200	Alcohol/drug abuse services	703-359-7040
Animal Shelter	703-830-3310	Child care	703-449-9555
Consumer Affairs	703-222-8435	Courts	703-691-7320
Dept. of Motor Vehicles	800-435-5137	I-66 Disposal Sites	703-631-1179
Emergency	911	Fastran	703-222-9764
Fire/rescue (non-emergency)	703-691-2131	Gang Unit-Police	703-246-4548
Human Services	703-222-0880	Office for Women	703-324-5730
Park Authority	703-324-8700	Police (non-emergency)	703-691-2131
Tax Information	703-222-8234	Recreation Classes	703-324-5550
Recycling InfoLine	703-324-5052	School-Age Child Care Program	703-449-8989
School information	703-246-2502	Senior Citizen Information	703-324-5411
Traffic Tickets	703-246-3764	Trash Pick-up (County)	703-802-3322
VDOT	703-383-VDOT	Voting Information	703-222-0776

For any number listed here or elsewhere in TTY, please call
703-FAIRFAX (703-324-7329), TTY 711.



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

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

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