



The Providence Online

2008 February Edition



The [Providence Online](#) is a monthly electronic newsletter from the Office of Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth and provides information and updates for Providence District residents.

Save the Date! Thursday, April 24 50+ Adults Workshop

The Providence District Supervisor's Office, in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging and the Oakton Library, will be hosting a workshop for 50+ Adults on Thursday, April 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton.

A very large portion of county residents are either 50+ and/or are responsible for providing care, advice or assistance to their parents or others. This workshop is intended to serve as an opportunity for anyone interested in issues associated with the ever increasing 50+ population to learn more about the services the county has available to offer.

The event kick off will be followed by two workshops and a variety of exhibits. The first workshop will focus on scams with presenters from the Fairfax County Police Department and the Office of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection. The second workshop will focus on services available within the county with presenters from the Area Agency of Aging and the Oakton Library. Representatives will be on hand to answer exhibit questions.

For more event information, please contact the Providence District Supervisor's office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711 or on the [Providence District website](#). ■

Celebrate African American History Month in Fairfax County

**Friday, February 29 at the
Fairfax County Government Center**



Ninth Annual Providence District Environmental Fair A Focus on Global Warming



**Saturday, March 29 from 9 a.m. to noon
Fairhill Elementary School
3001 Chichester Lane, Fairfax**

The ninth Annual Providence District Environmental Fair will focus on issues pertaining to global warming; its affects on Fairfax County; and what proactive measures residents can take. The event will be a resource fair with displays and presentations. This year there will also be services available for secure document shredding, bicycle repair and customized commuting routes. More event information is available by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711 or by visiting the [event website](#).

Providence District Newsletters

Public Safety Newsletters

Providence District residents are served by the Mason, Fair Oaks and McLean Police Stations. These stations provide residents with the following public safety newsletters: The Mason District Station Newsletter, The Fair Oaks District Station Newsletter, and The Siren – McLean District Station. Residents and Neighborhood Watch served by these police stations are encouraged to [subscribe](#) to the newsletter for important information update. ■

Be Alert!

The [Police Department](#) recently released the following [personal safety tips and reminders](#) for residents:

- ▶ Be alert. Someone not paying attention to their surroundings makes an easier target.
- ▶ Be confident. Walk with a purpose and look alert.
- ▶ Trust your instincts. If it doesn't feel or look right, it probably is not right.
- ▶ Carry a cell phone.
- ▶ Discuss travel routes and arrival times with friends and/or family.
- ▶ Avoid carrying large sums of money.
- ▶ Report suspicious people or activity immediately.
- ▶ Walk in well-lit, populated areas and avoid cut-throughs.
- ▶ Avoid walking close to hedges and bushes.
- ▶ Before leaving a bus or public place, look around to see who is in the area. ■



S.A.F.E

Sponsored by the Fairfax
County Police Department

Consider These Statistics:

- 90% of self defense is in the prevention of an attack;
- 90% of crime is opportunistic;
- Acts of violence occur every 15 seconds in the United States;
- Six million American women are beaten each year by their husbands or boyfriends and four thousand of those women are killed.

[Sexual Assault Free & Empowered](#) (SAFE) is a free women's self defense program offered by the Fairfax County Police Department. SAFE is dedicated to empowering women with knowledge to reduce the occurrence of sexual assault crimes. The program provides effective options by teaching women to take an active role in their own self defense and psychological well-being.

Women wishing to participate in this training should consider that training is simulated to be as realistic as possible. The objective of the training is to teach students about their abilities and limits in a controlled environment instead of in an actual assault.

The free classes are offered once a month over a two-week period on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and require a commitment to attend four 3-hour sessions. For more details on class dates or to sign up for the training, please call 703-246-7806, TTY 711. ■

Great Parks, Great Communities Workshop on Tuesday, March 11

Are you interested in preserving, protecting and playing in your parks? The Fairfax County Park Authority wants your input! "[Great Parks, Great Communities](#)" is an exciting new park planning process initiated to get your input on balancing Fairfax County's future park needs and resources. Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth, along with Planning Commissioner Ken Lawrence and Park Authority Board Member Ken Quincy, will host a "Great Parks, Great Communities" workshop and open house on **Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at [Luther Jackson Middle School](#)** to kick off the program and solicit your input.

If you cannot join us in person, consider sharing your thoughts with us via [email](#). You will be able to view maps and presentations, read draft documents and provide feedback [online](#). For more information please contact Senior Park Planner Angie Allen at 703-324-8694, TTY 711. ■

Smoke Detectors

[Smoke detectors](#) have been available to be installed in homes since the early 1970's. Smoke detectors are life savers and it is important to make sure smoke detectors are installed and working in your home. Statistics indicate that a working smoke detector reduces your chance of dying in a fire by 50%.

Smoke detectors should be installed on every level and within each bedroom within your home. Why in every bedroom, you might ask? Smoke detectors are designed to alert occupant in the event of fire at any time, and most importantly when we are asleep, a time we are most vulnerable. Seconds can make the difference in outcomes.

Smoke detectors being installed in newer homes are connected to the homes power supply and the detectors also contain battery backup capability. Additionally, the smoke detectors are wired together so that when any one detector within the home detects smoke, all of the detectors, all around the house sound their alarms, alerting all occupants at the same time.

Upgrading to this type of smoke detecting interconnected system is required by the International Residential Code (IRC) 2003 edition, the [building code standard](#) adopted Statewide for residential construction. IRC *section R313.1.1* requires smoke detector system upgrades when significant renovations occur within your home. It is advisable to upgrade from older battery only smoke detectors to this more modern interconnected smoke detector system as soon as possible.

If existing smoke detectors are ten years old or older it is time to replace them. You want and need them to work when fire occurs! The service life of a smoke detector is ten years.

When purchasing smoke detectors you need to be aware that there are two types of smoke detecting technology available. *Ion type* and *photoelectric type* technologies both work well; however, they detect the presence of smoke/fire in different ways. Consider purchasing both types of technologies so they both can work for you in the event of fire. Ion technology reacts quicker to open flame and the photoelectric technology reacts quicker to smoky, smoldering fires. Some smoke detector manufacturers market smoke detectors that contain both technologies.

Remember to test your smoke detectors regularly and replace batteries two times per year. **Remember---** "Working - [Smoke detectors](#) save lives!" ■

Celebrating Oakton High School

The doors of the [Oakton High School](#) opened for students in the fall of 1967, even before all the finishing touches were complete. In the last 40 years, Oakton High School has compiled a rich tradition and an impressive history of being the heart and soul of the community. On Saturday, April 5, 2008, Oakton High School will celebrate its 40th Anniversary.

In this spirit of celebration, a committee of volunteers including parents, faculty, administrators and alumni are planning a robust schedule of events. The program will highlight and reflect on the 40 years of contribution to the community. Some of the programming includes a fashion show representing each of the decades of Oakton, a golf tournament, a showcase at the school, culminating with a benefit gala on the evening of Saturday, April 5.

Members of the community are invited to join the Oakton community for this celebration. More information about the [40th Anniversary Celebration](#) is available on the Oakton High School website. ■

Book Sale!

Friends of Oakton Library

Friday, March 7, 10 a.m to 6 p.m
Saturday, March 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The [Friends of Oakton Library](#) is sponsoring a book sale to benefit the [Oakton Library](#). More information about the book sale is available by calling the Oakton Library at 703-242-4020, TTY 711 or by visting the [library website](#). ■



Prototypes of a Tysons Future

The [Tysons Task Force](#) will be hosting three identical [workshops](#) from February 27 - 28 to discuss prototypes of a Tysons future. The two prototypes are being evaluated to determine how different internal transportation systems function, how overall growth can be managed, how to provide parks and open spaces, how to increase residential development, and how other key choices will affect the future.

Workshop Dates and Locations:

- ▶ February 27, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at [Marshall High School](#) in Michael Hall
- ▶ February 28, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at [McLean Community Center](#) Community Hall B/C
- ▶ February 28, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at [Westbriar Elementary School](#) Cafeteria

Residents and interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend one of these workshops. RSVP is requested by no later than February 22 at 703-324-1344 or by [email](#). The public is also invited to provide input [online](#) by February 22-29. ▀

Volunteers Needed for CASH

[Fairfax County CASH](#) (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) helps working families with annual household incomes of less than \$40,000 keep and grow their money. CASH is recruiting volunteers for the 2008 'Tis Tax Season. More information is available by calling 703-324-5171, TTY 711 or by visiting the CASH [website](#). ▀

Fairfax County's FY 2009 Budget

- ▶ **February 25, 2008:** County Executive presents the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan
- ▶ **March 10, 2008:** FY 2009 Budget, Tax Rate and FY 2008 Third Quarter Review to Board of Supervisors for advertisement
- ▶ **March 31 - April 2, 2008:** Public Hearings on FY 2009 Budget, FY 2008 Third Quarter and FY 2008 - FY 2012 Capital Improvement Program
- ▶ **April 21, 2008:** Budget Markup
- ▶ **April 28, 2008:** Budget Adoption

Information on the FY 2009 County Executive's Budget Proposal is available by contacting the Department of Management and Budget by [email](#) or by calling 703-324-2391, TTY 711. The Citizens Guide to the Budget is also available [online](#). ▀

[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

Please call 703-FAIRFAX (703-324-7329), TTY 711 for other county related information.

The [2007 Providence Resource Directory](#) is available by calling the Providence District Supervisor's office. ▀



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.

Subscription to the ProvidenceOnline

To receive a copy of the e-newsletter, residents are requested to subscribe to "[ProvidenceOnline](#) - Information and Updates for Providence residents." ▀