



The Providence Online



2007 December 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 residents.

Fairfax County Inauguration for 2008-2011

You are invited to the Inauguration of the 11th Urban County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County's Constitutional Officers and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Directors on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. ▪

Snow Removal Information

When winter arrives, call 703-383-VDOT (8368), TTY 800-432-1843, to find out about road and traffic conditions or request snow removal in Northern Virginia. The [Virginia Department of Transportation](#) (VDOT) snow removal dispatchers are available to take your call 24 hours a day.

For information on the procedures related to snow removal, you can call the above number or send an [email](#). More information is available in the VDOT [Snow Removal Brochure](#). Also, VDOT has a FAQ online to address your [snow removal query](#). ▪



Community Emergency Alert Network

Fairfax County's Community Emergency Alert Network ([CEAN](#)) delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates during a major crisis or emergency, in addition to day-to-day notices about weather and traffic. Messages will be delivered to the following devices you can register:

- email account
- cell phone
- text pager
- satellite phone
- wireless device

Once you [sign up for an account](#), you also can map your specific points of interest (route to work, schools, etc.). Residents may also sign up for the [National Emergency Information Exchange](#), which is a text-based emergency alert and notification system for the Washington Metropolitan Area. ▪

[Events and Tips for the Winter Holidays](#)

[Winter Weather Preparedness Tips](#)

[Fairfax County's 2008 Legislative Program for the Virginia General Assembly](#)

[Virginia Legislation Information](#)

[Community Policing](#)

Satellite navigation systems (GPS) can be pre-installed units fitted into vehicles during the manufacturing process or small, portable units that can be purchased separately and added to vehicles.

The portable units are easily installed with no complicated wiring procedures. Generally, all that is required is to install a cradle which attaches to the front windshield by a suction cup. These units are small, portable and frequently reported stolen. The Police have put together the following tips for deterring thefts of GPS and other small, portable items from vehicles:

- ▶ Do not leave valuables visible from the outside. Remove portable GPS units from the dashboard, including the cradle. Do not simply place it in the glove box or under the seat.
- ▶ Keep a supply of moist towelettes to clean the area of the windshield marked by the suction cup.
- ▶ Do not leave other valuables in the vehicles, including laptops, cameras, satellite radios or cell phones.
- ▶ Lock all doors and close windows when leaving the car, even if it is only for a short time.
- ▶ Try to park the vehicle in a well-lit area.

The foundation of a successful [community policing](#) strategy is the close, interactive relationship between officers and community members working toward the goal of reducing crime and its effects. For more information regarding this or other important crime prevention initiatives, please contact the [McLean Crime Prevention Unit](#) at 703-556-7750, TTY 711.

If you need to report criminal activity, please call 703-691-2131 (non emergency) or 911 (emergency). ▪

[2007 Report on the Environment](#)

The [2007 Report on the Environment](#), drafted by the [Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council \(EQAC\)](#), is an update on the state of the county's environment and serves a threefold purpose. Initially, it is intended to assist the [Board of Supervisors](#) in evaluating ongoing environmental programs and to provide the basis for proposing new programs. The document also aids public agencies in coordinating programs to jointly address environmental issues. In addition, the report is directed to residents and others who are concerned with environmental issues.

The report continues to include chapters on major environmental topics including land use and transportation; air quality; water resources; solid waste; hazardous materials; ecological resources; wildlife management; and noise, light and visual pollution.

EQAC has incorporated a chapter in the 2007 report addressing [global climate change issues](#) as they relate to Fairfax County. An appendix addressing state legislation relating to the environment has also been added. The report covers activities affecting the environment in 2006; however, in some cases, key activities from 2007 are also included.

The Fairfax County EQAC is an advisory group that has been appointed by the Fairfax County of Supervisors to advise the Board on environmental matters. The EQAC provides advice to the Board of Supervisors through its Annual Report on the Environment and through resolutions and correspondence resulting from discussions at EQAC's monthly meetings. ▪

Great Parks, Great Communities Workshop

Are you interested in preserving, protecting and playing in your parks? The [Fairfax County Park Authority](#) wants your input! Come help us plan how to protect and preserve our natural and cultural resources and ensure quality places for the next generation to play and thrive. "Great Parks, Great Communities" is an exciting new 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 gain your input. If you cannot join us in person, consider sharing your thoughts via [email](#). Beginning in January, you will be able to view maps and presentations, read draft documents and [provide feedback online](#). For more information about this initiative please contact Senior Park Planner Angie Allen at 703-324-8694, TTY 711. ▪



[Must Have Numbers](#)



Josiah H. Beeman Commission Survey

Consumers, their family members/significant others, and service providers are invited to take this anonymous survey to [share their input on mental health services in Fairfax County](#). This survey was developed by consumers in cooperation with Columbia University. The survey measures the type of actions or situations that promote or do not promote recovery from mental illness.

Results from the survey will be used to help the [Josiah H. Beeman Commission](#) form recommendations on the future direction of mental health services in Fairfax County. Summarized results, as well as the Commission's recommendations, will be available on the website when ready.

To request this survey in an alternate format, please contact Jaclyn Wing at 703-324-7407, TTY 711. ■

Climate Change Steering Committee Report Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

On April 11, 2007, the [COG Board of Directors](#) created the interdisciplinary "Climate Change Steering Committee" to advise the Board on the development of a regional climate change program. The committee will make a recommendation on any need for a long term organizational structure for the regional climate change initiative. Elements of the regional climate change program to be considered by the steering committee include:

- Preparing a catalogue of greenhouse gas reduction activities already underway in the region.
- Preparing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions in the region and the establishment of a regional greenhouse gas reduction goal or target based on an appropriate baseline.
- Identification of specific activities and best practices to achieve greenhouse gas reduction and a method for measuring progress in meeting reduction targets.
- Examination of local impacts of climate change on the Washington region.
- Examination of the feasibility of establishing a carbon offset fund, or other appropriate carbon reduction funding mechanism, for the Washington region.
- Recommendations on regional climate change policy and potential advocacy positions on federal, state and local climate change actions and proposals.

It is further charged with development of a climate change work program and identification of resources and funding to support its mission. See the links for the committee [calendar](#), [current documents](#), [membership](#) and [archived committee information](#). ■

Subscription to the ProvidenceOnline

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



Serving Fairfax County

[The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association](#) (FCFCA) is inviting members of the community to serve Fairfax County by becoming a member of the FCFCA. Residents with a passion in human services and transportation subject matters are especially encouraged to contact the FCFCA.

The FCFCA is an association for the county's homeowners, civic and community organizations. They work closely with community members, professional staff and elected officials on issues that impact all Fairfax County residents.

For more information on the FCFCA, please contact the Federation President via [email](#) or mail your query to Attn: FCFCA, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003. ■

Relative Rescue!

Are you expecting to host relatives this holiday season or just looking for something special? Check out the great deals on hotels, airfares and discounts on shopping, dining and area attractions on the [Visit Fairfax \(FXVA\) website](#).

FXVA is here to help facilitate with your hospitality goals this holiday season! ■

Statewide Fire Burning

"Effective November 15, 2007, Governor Tim Kaine has lifted the statewide burning ban. All authorized and [permitted burning in Fairfax County can resume normal procedures](#). Thank you to everyone for their cooperation in this matter." ■