



# Courier

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## County Launches Pages on Facebook, MySpace and YouTube

By Jeremy Lasich  
Office of Public Affairs

Social networking has changed the way that people communicate with each other on a daily basis, especially those who fall into the Generation Y category (born between 1983 and 1997). People all over the world are using Web sites such as Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and LinkedIn to stay connected with friends, families and colleagues.

In an effort to expand Fairfax County's online presence and reach this younger audience, the county recently launched pages on three of the most popular sites: Facebook, MySpace and YouTube (see page 2 for links).

For those not familiar with these sites, Facebook and MySpace are social networks that are shared among "friends." YouTube is a video-sharing service that allows users to upload, view and share video clips.

"With millions of people spending hours of their time on these

social networking sites, it is becoming increasingly difficult to draw people to other Web sites," said **Merni Fitzgerald**, director of the Office of Public Affairs. "By creating a presence on Facebook, MySpace and YouTube, we are expanding our communications efforts and getting our content to where the eyeballs are."

The Office of Public Affairs maintains the content for these sites, which is often repurposed from existing material. For example, the video clips available on the county's YouTube page were produced for Channel 16. The site currently includes videos on making an emergency supply kit; becoming a police officer; and signing

up for the medical needs and social needs registries, among other topics. Segments from Channel 16's signature show, "County Magazine," will be uploaded on a monthly basis as well.

Content on the Facebook and MySpace pages is drawn from [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov), and photos and videos will be uploaded there as well. The Library has successfully used its MySpace page as a networking tool for years and currently has more than 440 "friends," including students, authors, other libraries and book companies.

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Courier is available online at <http://infoweb/courier>

Although access to social networking sites is blocked on most county computers, the Department of Information Technology (DIT) is currently exploring options to allow access to Fairfax County-specific pages. The risk and vulnerabilities associated with sites must be mitigated prior to providing this access to county employees.

County agencies may request to create pages on social networking sites, but they must follow the protocol outlined in the Social Networking Policy, which can be found on pages 3 and 14-16 of the Web Content Policy (see box for link). All requests must outline the business case for developing the pages and be submitted to Deputy County Executive **Dave Molchany**, chair of the county's E-Government Steering Committee. Requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the committee, which is composed of staff members from DIT, the Office of Public Affairs, the Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection, the Library and the Office of the County Attorney.

In addition to the countywide pages maintained by the Office of Public Affairs

and the Library's MySpace page, the Sheriff's Office also has a presence on all three social networking sites.

The three countywide pages have been added to the Get Fairfax County campaign (see box for link), which consolidates all the ways residents and employees can stay connected with the county. In addition to the social networking sites, county information is available from 703-FAIRFAX (TTY 711), News to Use, e-government services, podcasts, RSS feeds, Weekly Agenda and emergency alerts.

▶ Staff members from the Office of Public Affairs are available to make presentations to agencies interested in learning more about social networking and social media – a broader term that includes blogs and wikis, among other topics. For more information, contact **Jeremy Lasich** at 703-324-3175,

TTY 711, or [jeremy.lasich@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:jeremy.lasich@fairfaxcounty.gov). ■

### Social Networking Sites and More Information

▶ **View county videos at:**

[www.youtube.com/fairfaxcountygov](http://www.youtube.com/fairfaxcountygov)

▶ **Join the county's Facebook group at:**

[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7901829756](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7901829756)  
(account required)

▶ **Become the county's MySpace "friend" at:**

[www.myspace.com/fairfaxcountygovernment](http://www.myspace.com/fairfaxcountygovernment)

▶ **Stay connected with the county at:**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/getfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/getfairfax)

▶ **Read the Web Content Policy at:**

[http://infoweb/opa/webcontent/content\\_policy.pdf](http://infoweb/opa/webcontent/content_policy.pdf)

▶ **Visit other county pages at:**

[www.myspace.com/fairfaxpubliclibrary](http://www.myspace.com/fairfaxpubliclibrary)  
[www.youtube.com/user/fairfaxlibrary](http://www.youtube.com/user/fairfaxlibrary)  
[www.youtube.com/user/fairfaxcountysheriff](http://www.youtube.com/user/fairfaxcountysheriff)  
[www.myspace.com/fairfaxcountysheriff](http://www.myspace.com/fairfaxcountysheriff)  
[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=29180685460](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=29180685460)

## Honor Guard Wins Two Awards in Competition

The Sheriff's Office Honor Guard took first place in the best-dressed category and second in the marching competition in an annual event sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. The Honor Guard competition took place at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., during Correctional Officers/Employees Week, May 3-10.

The Honor Guard is the formal representative of the Sheriff's Office at all types of functions in the county and metro area, including funerals, graduations, judges investitures, parades and sporting events. All members are sheriff's

deputies, who practice monthly and drill before every event. In rain or shine, heat or cold, the Honor Guard maintains its

strict composure, precise military bearing and meticulous attention to detail. ■



**The Honor Guard members who participated in the competition were (left-right) Master Drill Sgt. Samuel Gonsalves, Master Drill Sgt. George Hall, Pfc. Eric Halusa, Pfc. John Simms and Pfc. Zuman Holden. Not pictured are officers who provided assistance, including Pfc. Thomas Kyle, Pfc. James Clemons, Pfc. Kent Lwin, Pfc. Christopher Loftis and Sgt. Brian Wilson. Photo provided by the Sheriff's Office.**

# 2008 Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation Award Winner Library and Courts Are Changing Lives Through Literature

By Pamela Phan and  
Erica Satten  
Office of Public Affairs

Staff from the Fairfax County Public Library and the courts are working together to provide at-risk youth and adults with a unique opportunity for reform through reading. Changing Lives through Literature is an alternative sentencing program that uses literature and reading to transform the lives of teens and adults.

In partnership with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and the Probation and Parole sector of the Virginia Department of Corrections, the Library hopes to change and empower people through book discussion.

The program involves six to 12 offenders, including teens and adults, often a judge and a probation officer, as well as a facilitator, who meet over a series of weeks to discuss and reflect on the assigned readings.

The participants are grouped by age and gender to promote open conversation. The judge and probation officers also read the literature.

"Instead of simply assigning community service to individuals where there is only punishment and no



**Katie Strotman**  
with some of the  
book selections  
used in the  
literacy program.

reflection, the program allows people to come to a place where they can express their thoughts without judgment and reflect on their actions and make better choices," said **Katie Strotman**, director of programming and events for the Library.

The program is based on a model used in Massachusetts; however, this program is unique because it takes place in libraries. According to Strotman, one challenge of this program is that it involves people who have not completed

high school or college. Having the discussion in a library inspires participants to go back to school or to learn to read to their children. At the end of the program the participants receive a library card.

The texts are selected by Strotman. Many of the characters in the books she chooses deal with similar issues as individuals in the program, such as difficult choices, violence, identity and abuse. Participants are asked to list what they learned from the book and how they can apply it to their lives.

The program has been an award-winning success. From a group of 12 teenage girls who completed the session last winter, only two have been arrested again, one for an offense that occurred before the program.

Changing Lives through Literature is the recipient of the Alliance for Innovation's 2008 Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation Award, which seeks to recognize groundbreaking county government programs.

► For more information about Alliance for Innovation awards, go to [www.transformgov.org/about/about\\_awards.asp](http://www.transformgov.org/about/about_awards.asp).

► For more information about Library programs and events, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). ■

► If you have questions, contact **Lisa Connors**, Courier editor, at 703-324-3197, TTY 711, or [lisa.connors@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:lisa.connors@fairfaxcounty.gov). ■

## July 3 Issue Notice

Due to the July 4 holiday falling on a Friday, Courier will be published on Thursday, July 3.

The deadline for the July 3 issue is Wednesday, June 18 and articles are published space permitting.

# Retirement Funds Profile

The chart below reflects the funding status of the Employees, Uniformed and Police Officers Retirement Systems as of

June 30, 2007. If you have questions, contact the Retirement Administration Agency at 703-279-8200, TTY 711. ■

## Retirement Funds Profile

(For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007)

Employees' Retirement System		14,914		Uniformed Retirement System		2,003		Police Officers Retirement System		1,406															
Active Membership (6/30/07)				Active Membership (6/30/07)				Active Membership (6/30/07)																	
Income and Expenditures for FY 2007				Income and Expenditures for FY 2007				Income and Expenditures for FY 2007																	
<b>Contributions</b>	\$ 29,805,266	\$ 87,257,977	\$ 9,988,515	\$ 36,486,832	\$ 171,975,157	\$ 4,957,145	\$ 176,932,302	\$ 11,796,129	\$ 19,222,753	\$ 142,177,009	\$ 5,156,427														
Plan members																									
Employer	57,452,711																								
<b>Total</b>	\$ 87,257,977	\$ 87,257,977	\$ 9,988,515	\$ 36,486,832	\$ 171,975,157	\$ 4,957,145	\$ 176,932,302	\$ 11,796,129	\$ 19,222,753	\$ 142,177,009	\$ 5,156,427														
<b>Investment Income</b>	368,917,172	391,853,619	4,680,569	4,705,042	405,763	(9,691,374)		3,413,991	4,882,889	377,348	(8,674,228)														
From investment activities	22,936,447																								
From securities lending activities																									
<b>Total</b>	\$ 391,853,619	\$ 391,853,619	\$ 4,680,569	\$ 4,705,042	\$ 405,763	\$ (9,691,374)		\$ 3,413,991	\$ 4,882,889	\$ 377,348	\$ (8,674,228)														
Less: investment-related expense	11,641,036																								
Investment management fees	20,628,024																								
Securities lending	804,933																								
Banking services and other	(33,073,993)																								
<b>Net investment income</b>	358,779,626	123,688,203	4,680,569	4,705,042	405,763	(9,691,374)		3,413,991	4,882,889	377,348	(8,674,228)														
Total additions	\$ 446,037,603	\$ 446,037,603	\$ 4,680,569	\$ 4,705,042	\$ 405,763	\$ (9,691,374)		\$ 3,413,991	\$ 4,882,889	\$ 377,348	\$ (8,674,228)														
<b>Deductions</b>	108,762,484	123,688,203	39,729,752	6,978,759	485,965	1,159,896		34,077,659	1,318,451	1,914,638	864,659														
Regular service benefits	6,414,723																								
Disability benefits	2,688,700																								
Survivor benefits	5,802,296																								
Refunds and other expenses																									
<b>Total deductions</b>	\$ 123,688,203	\$ 123,688,203	\$ 39,729,752	\$ 6,978,759	\$ 485,965	\$ 1,159,896		\$ 34,077,659	\$ 1,318,451	\$ 1,914,638	\$ 864,659														
Net increase for the year	\$ 322,349,400	\$ 322,349,400	\$ 165,362,903	\$ 942,648,273	\$ 1,108,011,176	\$ 1,108,011,176		\$ 131,502,883	\$ 800,424,526	\$ 931,927,209	\$ 38,175,407														
<b>Net assets held in trust for pension benefits</b>	\$ 2,480,951,498	\$ 2,480,951,498	\$ 165,362,903	\$ 942,648,273	\$ 1,108,011,176	\$ 1,108,011,176		\$ 131,502,883	\$ 800,424,526	\$ 931,927,209	\$ 38,175,407														
As of July 1, 2006																									
As of June 30, 2007	\$ 2,783,300,898	\$ 2,783,300,898	\$ 1,108,011,176	\$ 1,108,011,176	\$ 1,108,011,176	\$ 1,108,011,176		\$ 131,502,883	\$ 800,424,526	\$ 931,927,209	\$ 38,175,407														
<b>Assets at Market Value (as of June 30, 2007)</b>																									
Equities	\$ 1,205,436,409	\$ 1,205,436,409	\$ 310,935,472	\$ 244,428,440	\$ 534,280,543	\$ 55,510,344		\$ 347,160,001	\$ 222,895,805	\$ 331,568,758	\$ 38,362,453														
Fixed Income	595,290,579	791,043,477	239,216,951	2,885,447	253,827,789	500,913,475		1,611,919	3,579,964	105,999,745	1,051,178,645														
Mutual Funds and Pooled Trusts	239,216,951	2,885,447	4,019,370	55,482,442	106,896,663	1,311,553,274																			
Short-term investments/Accruals/Cash	2,885,447	253,827,789	55,482,442	106,896,663	1,311,553,274																				
Equity in County's Pooled Cash	253,827,789	500,913,475																							
Receivable from sale of investments	500,913,475	3,588,613,127																							
Cash Collateral received for securities lending																									
<b>Total assets</b>	\$ 3,588,613,127	\$ 3,588,613,127	\$ 1,108,011,176	\$ 1,108,011,176	\$ 1,108,011,176	\$ 1,108,011,176		\$ 105,999,745	\$ 105,999,745	\$ 105,999,745	\$ 105,999,745														
Payable for collateral received for securities lending	\$ 500,913,475	\$ 500,913,475	\$ 106,896,663	\$ 95,242,640	\$ 1,402,795	\$ 203,542,098		\$ 12,258,373	\$ 993,318	\$ 119,251,436	\$ 931,927,209														
Payable for purchase of investments	301,117,142	3,281,612																							
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	3,281,612	805,312,229																							
<b>Total liabilities</b>	\$ 805,312,229	\$ 805,312,229	\$ 203,542,098	\$ 1,402,795	\$ 203,542,098	\$ 203,542,098		\$ 12,258,373	\$ 993,318	\$ 119,251,436	\$ 931,927,209														
<b>Net assets</b>	\$ 2,783,300,898	\$ 2,783,300,898	\$ 1,108,011,176	\$ 1,108,011,176	\$ 1,108,011,176	\$ 1,108,011,176		\$ 105,999,745	\$ 105,999,745	\$ 105,999,745	\$ 105,999,745														
<b>Investment managers</b>	Barclays Global Investors, San Francisco, CA	Bank of New York, London, UK	Brandywine Global Investment Management, Philadelphia, PA	Bridgewater Associates, Westport, CT	The Clifton Group, Minneapolis, MN	Cohen & Steers Capital Management, New York, NY	Desphaven Capital Management, Minnetonka, MN	DePrince, Race & Zollo, Winterpark, FL	Dinefield Capital Management, Chicago, IL	FrontPoint Partners, Philadelphia, PA	FrontPoint Partners, Greenwich, CT	Highbridge Capital Management, New York, NY	JP Morgan Investment Management, New York, NY	Julius Baer Investment Management, New York, NY	LSV Asset Management, Chicago, IL	MacKay Shields LLC, New York, NY	Marathon Asset Management, London, UK	PLMCO, Newport Beach, CA	Post Advisory Group LLC, Los Angeles, CA	Pzena Investment Management, New York, NY	Steris Capital Management, Arlington, VA	Standard & Poor's Capital Management, New York, NY	Standard & Poor's Asset Management, Pittsburgh, PA	Trust Company of the West, Los Angeles, CA	Wanger Asset Management, Chicago, IL
<b>Investment managers</b>	Acadian Asset Management, Boston, MA	Barclays Global Investors, San Francisco, CA	The Boston Company, Boston, MA	Brandywine Global Investment Management, Philadelphia, PA	Bridgewater Associates, Westport, CT	Cohen & Steers Capital Management, New York, NY	Dorset Energy Fund, Hamilton, Bermuda	FrontPoint Partners, Greenwich, CT	Harbourvest Partners, LLC, Boston, MA	Kaplan Associates, Boston, MA	JP Morgan Investment Management, New York, NY	Julius Baer Investment Management, New York, NY	Marathon Asset Management, London, England	OrbiMed Healthcare Fund Management, New York, NY	Pantheon Ventures, Inc., San Francisco, CA	Payden & Rygel Investment Counsel, Los Angeles, CA	PIMCO, Newport Beach, CA	Standish Mellon Asset Management, Pittsburgh, PA	Trust Company of the West, Los Angeles, CA	UBS Realty Advisors LLC, Hartford, CT	Wasatch Advisors, Salt Lake City, UT				
<b>Investment managers</b>	Acadian Asset Management, Boston, MA	Cohen & Steers Capital Management, New York, NY	Dodge & Cox Investment Managers, San Francisco, CA	FrontPoint Partners, Greenwich, CT	Grantham Mayo Van Otterloo & Co, Boston, MA	JANUS Capital Management, Denver, CO	Manner Investment Group, Boston, MA	McKinley Capital Management, Anchorage, AK	PLMCO, Newport Beach, CA	Standard & Poor's Capital Management, New York, NY	Standard & Poor's Asset Management, Pittsburgh, PA	Systematic Financial Management, Teaneck, NJ	Trust Company of the West, Los Angeles, CA	Vereidus Asset Management, Louisville, KY											

# County's Retirement Plans Well Funded; Soundly Invested

The following is a letter that was recently sent by e-mail to county employees from Deputy County Executive **Ed Long**.

Following the May 11, 2008, Washington Post article on pension deficits for public workers and contrary to the described "perfect storm" of under-funded retirement systems, I can reassure the community that the Fairfax County retirement systems are well funded and based on sound actuarial assumptions. Fairfax County also has a well-structured plan in place to address the liabilities associated with our other post-employment benefits (OPEB).

This should be reassuring not only to more than 12,000 current county employees and thousands of retirees, but also to the community that benefits

daily from the hard work of police officers, firefighters, social workers and other Fairfax County staff.

We routinely conduct detailed actuarial studies to ensure that all of our assumptions reflect actual experience and future expectations. Our actuarial firm has an excellent national reputation for accuracy and integrity.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has always responsibly funded its pension plans and as a result, our retirement systems are very healthy, soundly invested and fully capable of meeting future benefit obligations. This attention to public pensions was seen in April 2008, when during the very challenging budget climate, Fairfax County set aside millions of dollars for our trust fund that will cover the county's actuarial liabilities.

Despite many competing county needs that also deserve funding, Fairfax County is effectively addressing its pension and OPEB liabilities by carefully overseeing its benefit plans for retirees, adhering to conservative, time-tested actuarial assumptions and engaging in highly successful long-term investment strategies.

Fairfax County continues to be one of the best-managed jurisdictions in the country because of its sound accounting practices and dedication to the maintenance of pension funds. This is good news for current and future county taxpayers since it spares them from having to reach into their own pockets to pay a very large bill.

Sincerely,  
Edward L. Long, Jr.  
Deputy County Executive ■

## Police Department Reaps Awards, Honors

Justice, a county K-9 police dog, and partner Pfc. **Mike Gubesch**, received top honors and Justice was named "Iron Dog" in the Virginia Police Canine Association's Iron Dog competition on May 21. The event, which took place at Great Meadow in The Plains, Va., included 28 officers and their dogs from West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia, competing in a 10-event course covering 1.25 miles.

Master Police Officer **Mark Dale** and K-9 partner Niko also represented the county in the competition.



**Police officers (left-right) Mark Dale and Mike Gubesch and their K-9 partners participated in the Iron Dog Competition. Photo provided by the Police Department.**

Personnel from each of the county's district police stations were honored by the Fairfax Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) and Northern Virginia Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) at the 17th Annual Awards for Excellence in Community Service and Public Safety on

Friday, May 16, at the Tysons Westpark Hotel in Tysons Corner.

Speakers and special guests included Board of Supervisors Chairman **Gerald E. Connolly**, WTOP News traffic reporter

Bob Marbourg, Fairfax ASAP Director **Elwood Jones** and MADD Executive Director Jennifer Cipolla Hamilton.

The awards ceremony recognized the dedicated work of law enforcement personnel who have been diligent in their efforts to combat drinking and driving in the past year. Officers from 17 other jurisdictions also were honored.

The following county police personnel received awards:

Officer Matthew Bell  
Officer Harold Morris  
Officer Joseph Woloszyn  
Pfc. Anthony Taormina  
Pfc. Richard Mukherjee  
Pfc. Patrick Nolan  
Pfc. Connie Gerten  
Officer Matthew Jewett  
Pfc. John Spata  
Elizabeth Chapman  
Annette Dodson  
Kristina Berghoffer. ■

# Graduation Season Reminder: Remove Your Child From Health/Dental Coverage

Employees are reminded that children who graduate or otherwise stop being a full-time student become ineligible to continue county health or dental coverage as of the end of the month in which they stop being a full-time student.

Employees are required to notify the Department of Human Resources Benefits Division so the child can be removed from their coverage. The child will be offered COBRA continuation coverage for up to 36 months.

Under both the health and dental programs, non-disabled dependent children age 19 or older are eligible for coverage only if they are full-time students. When a child over the age of 19 graduates from college, she/he is no longer eligible for coverage unless continuing on to graduate

education. Eligibility for health and dental coverage ends for all non-disabled dependent children at age 23, regardless of their student status.

To remove your graduating dependent child from county health and dental coverage:

- ▶ Complete an Enrollment/Change Form available at [http://infoweb/hr/benefits/benelogic\\_2008\\_worksheet.pdf](http://infoweb/hr/benefits/benelogic_2008_worksheet.pdf).

- ▶ Submit the form to the Benefits Division located in the Government Center, Suite 270, within 60 days of the child's graduation date.

- ▶ Any related changes to your monthly health and/or dental premiums will be made automatically. Information on COBRA coverage and monthly premiums also is available on the Infoweb at <http://infoweb/hr/benefits/cobra2008.htm>.

- ▶ If you fail to remove your child from coverage, you will either be required to pay the COBRA premium rate (100 percent of the health or dental monthly premium plus a 2 percent administration fee) for the additional months of coverage or you will be responsible for any claims your child incurred during the additional months of coverage.

To continue coverage for a child who is

### HR Central

HR Central has benefit information.

- ▶ Call 703-324-4900

- TTY 703-222-7314

- ▶ Visit <http://infoweb/hr/benefits>

continuing on to graduate education:

- ▶ Complete a new dependent certification form.

- ▶ Submit the form to your health and/or dental plan as soon as possible.

Forms for CareFirst, CIGNA and Delta Dental are available on the Infoweb:

- ▶ **CareFirst:** [http://infoweb/hr/benefits/CareFirst\\_Student\\_Verification.pdf](http://infoweb/hr/benefits/CareFirst_Student_Verification.pdf)

- ▶ **CIGNA:** <http://infoweb/hr/benefits/cigna-studrecertdisabilityform.pdf>

- ▶ **Delta Dental:** <http://infoweb/hr/benefits/DeltaStudentCert.pdf>

- ▶ **Kaiser:** Employees in the Kaiser Health Plan should contact Kaiser Customer Service at 301-468-6000, TTY 711.

- ▶ Employees with questions on dependent coverage, removing their child from coverage, COBRA continuation coverage or continuing coverage for a child who is entering graduate school can contact HR Central at 703-222-5872, TTY 703-222-7314. ■



File photo.

## Briefs

### Dargle Named Park Authority Director

The Board of Supervisors confirmed the appointment of **John W. Dargle Jr.** as director of the Park Authority at its regular meeting on May 19, confirming the Park Authority Board's selection.

Dargle begins his new position on June 16 overseeing the day-to-day operations of the 24,000-acre county park system including all agency functions and divisions. The agency employs more than 500 full-time staff members and more than 3,500 part-time employees.

### Child Seat Inspections

The Police Department is providing free child seat inspections at the dates and locations listed below. Bring all items that came with the child seat such as the locking clip, versa tether and all latch straps. For infant child seats, two or three large bath towels are needed to assist in getting the proper angle.

- ▶ June 8 – noon to 4 p.m.
- ▶ June 22 – noon to 4 p.m.

Fifty West Office Complex  
3998 Fair Ridge Drive, Fairfax  
(Next to the Fair Oaks District Station.)

- ▶ June 15 – noon to 4 p.m.

Fair Lakes Wal-Mart  
13059 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax

- ▶ For more information, call

703-591-0966 (press 0), TTY 711. You also can visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/police30a.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/police30a.htm).

### Accessible Temporary Events

Ensuring access to meetings, exhibits, performances, tours, festivals and other types of events for people with disabilities requires forethought and preparation. Events are often held at challenging locations such as outdoor venues, and some issues such as communication or transportation may need to be addressed. Guest speaker Marissa Johnson, Disability and Business

Technical Assistance Center, will address these issues on Thursday, June 26, 9:30 a.m. – noon at the Herrity Building.

This event is co-sponsored by the Park Authority and Office of Equity Programs (OEP). To register, contact your training coordinator or use Pathlore through <http://infoweb/employeeu> using the course code: ADA Events.

▶ For questions or to request a reasonable ADA accommodation, call OEP at 703-324-2207, TTY 703-222-5494. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Request reasonable ADA accommodations by June 19.

### Sweet Treats for Public Works Week

The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) celebrated Public Works Week, May 19-23, with a dessert social for employees of the large agency on Wednesday, May 21. Held on the Government Center's north lawn, the event included ice cream, soft drinks and desserts, as well as the opportunity to work off a few of the sugary

calories playing volleyball, badminton, soccer and other games.

Employees also had the opportunity to compete for the bragging rights for best dessert in a bake-off competition judged by County Executive **Anthony H. Griffin**, Acting Director for the Department Of Human Resources **Susan Woodruff** and Environmental Coordinator **Kambiz Agazi**. Best dessert honors went to **Wendy Younk**, Land Development Services, and **Dynita Glenn**, Solid Waste Management.

### Farmers Markets Open

The county's 11 Farmers Markets are now open. All products sold at the markets are produced by the vendors within 125 miles of Fairfax County. Buy local and support sustainable agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

▶ Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm) for locations and times. For reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-642-0128, TTY 703-803-3354.

### Share Your "Green" Tips Reminder

Courier is publishing a practical guide to being green for employees this summer with resources, tips and valuable information about being environmentally friendly at home and work. This special issue will feature green tips from the county's best resource for great ideas – county employees.

▶ E-mail your green tip to [courier@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:courier@fairfaxcounty.gov). Write "Green Tip" in the subject line. Include your name, agency and contact information. The deadline is Friday, June 27. Courier will publish as many submissions as space permits. Plus, three of the submissions will be picked in a random drawing held before July 3 to win a native Virginia plant.

▶ More information is on page 5 in the May 23 Courier at <http://infoweb/courier>.

## Security & Safety Matters

# Take Precautions to Be Safe at Work

There are simple precautions you can use in your county workplace to prevent burglary, theft or vandalism, often committed by strangers posing as repair, delivery, cleaning or other service personnel:

▶ Question wandering or “lost” visitors roaming the halls and escort them to the right office, or to the information or security desk to call their intended contact.

▶ Watch out for “head poppers” who open the wrong doors and pretend to be looking for a specific office or person. If they act nervous or go immediately to the nearest exit, remember their description, and call the Fairfax County Police Department immediately at the

non-emergency number, 703-691-2131, TTY 711, or if you work at the Government Center complex, call the Security Office at 703-324-3434, TTY 711.

▶ Lock all offices or storage rooms that are regularly unoccupied.

▶ Secure your valuables in the trunk of your vehicle or keep them out of sight.

▶ In the office, secure your valuables in a locked drawer, cabinet or employee locker.

▶ Never keep purses, briefcases, keys or money out in the open.

▶ If you are unable to properly secure your valuables, keep them with you at all times or leave them at home.

▶ Be discreet – don’t advertise

your (or co-workers) vacation plans or absences when there is a stranger present in the office.

▶ When you must work before or after business hours, keep your doors locked. Notify security of your presence and where and what hours you will be working.

▶ If you are the last to leave at night, secure all computer systems, critical files and copiers.

▶ Always have your county ID with you and in open sight. Make sure it’s not obstructed by clothing. ■

# Public Hearing on Paid Parental Leave

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, July 10, on revisions to Chapters 2 and 10 of the county’s Personnel Regulations. The public hearing begins at 7:30 p.m. in Government Center Conference Rooms 2/3.

At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, a provision will be added to Section 10.15 to implement a paid parental leave program. If approved, employees will be entitled to two weeks paid parental leave for the birth, adoption or foster care placement of a child. Other administrative corrections to Chapter 10 and Chapter 2 are included as well.

▶ Call the Civil Service Commission at 703-324-2930, TTY 771, if you wish to place your name on the speakers list and/or receive a copy of the text of the proposed revisions. ■



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