

Courier

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When viewing Courier online, use the marked links to get directly to stories, e-mail addresses and Web pages.

The Summer Reading Issue

A lazy week at the beach, a quiet evening on the deck and a (slightly) slower pace to our hectic lives, makes summer a great time to catch up on reading for pleasure.

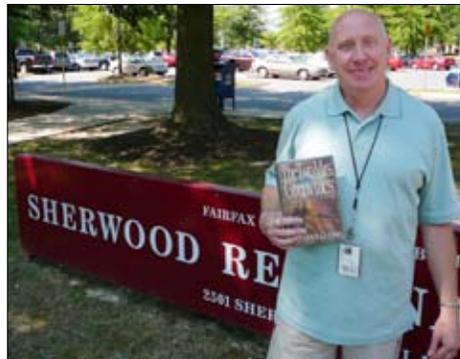
It's another Potter-crazy summer, and the county's library branches are right in the thick of it. Events and activities to celebrate the release later this month of the final book in the series, "Harry Potter and the Deathly

Hallows," are scheduled through Aug. 11. Look for highlights and photos on page 4.

If you're not wild about Harry, turn to page 5. Several employees share their favorite books and explain why they enjoyed them. All the books are available through the Fairfax County Public Library.

Grab a lounge chair, open a book and enjoy the summer!

Reading, see page 4



Michael Whitaker, Sherwood Regional Library, chose a Dominick Dunn book as his favorite and explains why on page 5. Photo by Mohammed Esslami

Eight Staff Receive Onthank Award

County officials presented eight employees with the Onthank Award, the highest honor Fairfax County bestows on its employees, at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday, June 18. Seven recipients are from county government and one is from the school system.

The awards were presented by Board of Supervisors Chairman **Gerald E. Connolly**, School Board Chairman **Daniel Storck**, County Executive **Anthony H. Griffin** and Deputy Schools Superinten-

dent **Richard Moniuszko**.

The county government employee

Onthank, see page 2



This year's Onthank award winners are (left to right) Major Thomas Ryan, Dai Q. Nguyen, Mari de Leon, C. Frank Dillow, Mona Enquist-Johnston, Judy Fincham, Martha B. Langrehr and Denis P. Paddeu. Behind them is the Board of Supervisors.

Onthank, from page 1

awardees are:

Mari de Leon, management analyst II, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

C. Frank Dillow, business analyst III, Department of Purchasing and Supply Management.

Mona Enquist-Johnston, naturalist III, Park Authority.

Judy Fincham, environmental technologist I, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

Dai Q. Nguyen, program manager, Department of Family Services.

Denis P. Paddeu, transportation planner III, Department of Transportation.

Thomas Ryan, major, Police Department. The Fairfax County Public Schools Employee Awardee is:

Martha B. Langrehr, social worker, S. John Davis Center

The following employees also were nominated for the Onthank Award:

Karen S. Conchar, Department of Environmental Services and Public Works;

Suzanne S. Levy, Library, and **Susan A. Retz**, Department of Housing and Community Development. For the school system,

the nominees were **Nancy R. McCracken**, Chantilly High School Academy; **Barbara Willt Serban**, Woodson Adult Center; and **Cynthia Sowah**, Lorton Center.

The Onthank Award was established by the Board of Supervisors in 1966 to honor the memory of Col. A. Heath Onthank (USA Ret.), the first chairman of the Fairfax County Civil Service Commission (1957-1962) and guiding force of the county's career merit system.

The Onthank Award recognizes accomplishments of outstanding worth in advancing and improving public service in Fairfax County government and the school system by an individual county employee. No more than 10 awards may be given each year.

Eligibility for the Onthank Award is open to merit system employees of county government, and contracted unified salary scale and food service employees of Fairfax County Public Schools. School teachers and instructional assistants are not eligible for this award.

Since its inception in 1966, 295 employees have received the Onthank Award. Nominations have come from residents, fellow employees, civic groups, and business and professional organizations. ■

Brown Receives Transportation Award



Dennis Brown (center, holding plaque) was honored at the board meeting last month. He was presented the annual Transportation Achievement Award by (left to right) George Barker, Janyce Hedetniemi and Gerald E. Connolly.

Dennis R. Brown, director of vocational and contractual services, Mental Retardation Services, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, received the Transportation Advisory Commission's (TAC) 2006 Transportation Achievement Award at the Board of Supervisors meeting on June 18.

The award was presented by Board of Supervisors Chairman **Gerald E. Connolly**, TAC Chairman **George Barker** and TAC Vice Chair **Janyce Hedetniemi**.

Brown has assisted in the provision of county transportation services for more than 20 years. His efforts enable more than 1,500 people with mental retardation, mental illness and drug/alcohol issues access to day service, employment, medical care and recreation in the community. ■

Florence Rowland Award Announced

The Office of the County Executive announced on June 21 the creation of a new employee award named for **Florence Rowland**, the longest-serving county government employee. Rowland retired from the county on June 22 after more than 50 years of service. The Florence Rowland Award for Exceptional Public Service has the following criteria:

- ♦ 30 or more years of Fairfax County government service.
- ♦ Demonstrated professionalism and exceptional customer service.
- ♦ Serving an integral role in the long-term success of one or more departments.
- ♦ Leading by example and serving as a role model for younger employees in the county government.

Nominations may be made by any county employee, with the approval of the nominee's department head. Nominations will be reviewed by a committee established by the county executive. The committee will make recommendations to the county executive and deputies, who will make the final decision.

The award will be presented at a scheduled



Florence Rowland (center) at the award announcement with several of the Health Department directors she worked for during her 50-year tenure with the county, including (left to right) Dr. Richard Miller, Dr. Carol Sharrett, (to the left of Rowland) Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu (current director) and Dr. Robert Stroube. Behind her is Deputy County Executive Verdia Haywood, for whom she worked prior to her retirement. Photo by Karen Shaban.

employee awards ceremony. Winners will receive \$1,000 and a commemorative clock.

Details on the timing for the nomination period for the award have not been finalized and information will be forthcoming in the fall. In the interim, any questions can be directed to **Dianne Wimbish**, Department of Human Resources, at 703-324-3365, TTY 711. ■

Employees Help Children in Need

Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of county employees, Child Protective Services, Department of Family Services (DFS) collected almost 200 outfits to help restock the emergency clothing supply for abused and neglected children.

The successful campaign began the week of June 4 and is the first time DFS has held an organized clothing drive.

"We are extremely grateful for the generous donations that we have received in support of our children," commented **Joslyn Waldron**, clothing drive coordinator.

The need continues for donations of new clothing for boys and girls, from newborns through age 4. Donations (new clothes only) can be brought to the main administrative office of DFS, located on the 5th floor of the

Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. For more information, contact Waldron at 703-324-7651, TTY 703-222-9452 or jos.waldron@fairfaxcounty.gov. ■

*By Zayna Fayyad,
Office of Public
Affairs*



Joslyn Waldron and Joshua Silver, DFS, with the piles of new clothes donated by county employees. Photo by Zayna Fayyad.

Library Catches Potter Fever

The Muggles were out in force when Scholastic's Harry Potter Knight bus pulled into the parking lot of the Chantilly Regional Library on June 20. It was one of only 37 stops on the nationwide tour of the purple double-decker bus familiar to readers of "The Prisoner of Azkaban."

People of all ages came in costume – peaked hats and Harry's distinctive spectacles – to celebrate the upcoming release of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the seventh and final book in the series by author J.K. Rowling.

That was just the beginning of Potter mania. At least a half-dozen library branches have planned activities to celebrate the book,

including a special "Harry Potter Midnight Book Release Celebration" that begins at 9:30 p.m. on July 20 at the Patrick Henry Library in Vienna and culminates with a sale of the book by Borders after midnight.

"Harry Potter has been such a huge

phenomenon over the last 10 years that I

wanted to do something special," explained **Andrew Pendergrass**, branch manager of the Patrick Henry Library.

Preparations for the release of the last Harry Potter book began in February, when the library placed its first order for the book. That order now totals 370 regular print copies; 30 large print copies and 88 books on CD. At the end of the first day after the title was entered in the catalog, 218 people had placed holds on the regular print version. Holds now total more than 1,200.

The books will actually arrive at the library's technical operations department seven to eight days before the release date. They will be kept secure and then processed a few days before the release date and sorted by library branch on carts. The morning of July 21, staff from the branches will pick up the books and deliver them to their respective locations so that customers on the holds list can get them immediately.

Why has the Harry Potter series been so popular? "J.K. Rowling uses a lot of imagination, action and adventure. Reading the books is like stepping into your own adventure at Hogwarts," said **Georgia Chirieleison**, the children's book selector in the library's collection development department. ■

By Pat Bangs, Library

Library event information can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.



The Chantilly Regional Library was one of only 37 stops nationwide for the Harry Potter purple bus. Photo by Johnny Goodyear.

Two Books for History Buffs

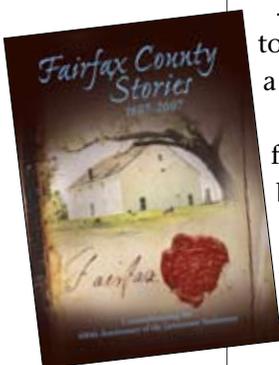
Fairfax County has 400 years of fascinating characters, stories, pictures and history — some of which are now published in a new book, "Fairfax Stories 1607-2007."

The \$10 soft-cover book offers everything from spies to ghosts to politics. It can be bought in-person or by phone through the Maps and Publications Center, Suite 156, Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, 703-324-2974, TTY 711. Shipping and handling will be charged for books delivered by mail.

"Fairfax Stories" was published by the county's Virginia 2007 Community Citizen Planning Committee. The group initiated this

project to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. Excerpts of the book can be read at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/va2007.

The library also is marking the Jamestown anniversary with the fourth annual All Fairfax Reads program. This summer's book selection is "His Excellency: George Washington" by Joseph J. Ellis. The All Fairfax Reads program encourages county residents to read and discuss the same book between May and September. For more information go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. ■



Employees' Favorite Books

In May, Courier asked employees to share their favorite books and why. Here is a selection of the submissions.

"I would have a hard time picking one favorite book – I'm almost certain I can't do that.

But there is one book that I have recommended to several friends. 'Bel Canto' by Ann Patchett is probably one of the most beautiful books I have ever read. The fantasy of a life imprisoned with a world-famous opera singer was surprisingly appealing. It was one of those books that you just don't want to end. Pretty amazing."



Jenny Pate

Jenny Pate

Park Authority

"My favorite book is 'The Two Mrs. Grenvilles' by Dominick Dunne. It's my favorite book because it actually mirrors an event in my own family. What I learned from this book is that no matter how one may feel about your own family and no matter how dysfunctional a family may be, when there is a family crisis or scandal, you close ranks and protect each other. I have re-read it many times and even though I am a voracious reader, it is still after all these years, my very favorite book. I highly recommend it."

Michael Whitaker

Sherwood Regional Library

"'Crime and Punishment' by Fyodor Dostoyevsky was enjoyable to me for a myriad of reasons; however, it was mostly the disposition of the protagonist, Rodion Romanovich Raskolnikov, from whom the story is told. Raskolnikov is perhaps one of the most fascinating and important characters in literature. The intensity and depth of the character is clear in each of his thoughts, perspectives

and morbid paranoia. Plagued by poverty, this young student epitomized the fringe of society whom are troubled by the world's injustice to such a grave degree that they're driven to martyrdom. Neither sympathetic nor condemning, Dostoyevsky reveals the inner workings of a murderer to a scale that will cause you to question your own morality."

Jesse Wireman

Department of Tax Administration

"'Don't Pee On My Leg and Tell Me It's Raining' by Judge Judy Sheindlin is a revealing book about the intricacies and technicalities of the justice system today. Judge Judy in her sarcastic and mean self takes a step back to show the bigger picture and provide crude proof that a bad beginning at home (family) will have a sad ending in court. If you dare to read the truth about dysfunctional households and her inspiring stories about saving our families...this book is for you!"

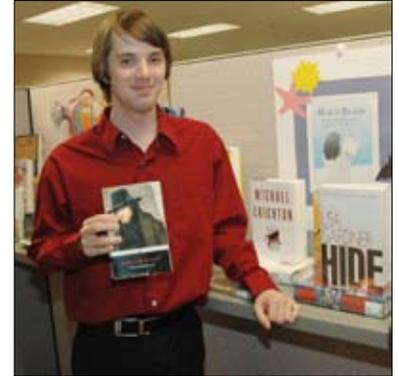
Luis A. Rosales

Police Department

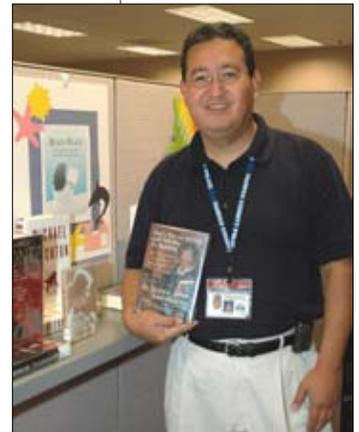
"My favorite book of all time is easily 'Shogun: a Novel of Japan' by James Clavell. It is a long book (almost 1,200 pages in paperback) but it is totally consuming – I found myself staying up late, reading at lunch, and even missed my Metro stop once. It has action, adventure, politics, plot twists, love interests, culture clashes, and it is a fascinating look into feudal Japan. There are so many characters and subplots to follow that the second read was as enjoyable as the first. I read mostly non-fiction now because most fictional books just can't live up to 'Shogun' in my opinion."

Jessie Steiger

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services ■



Jesse Wireman



Luis Rosales

Focus on Benefits



**HR Central
has benefit
information.
703-324-4900,
TTY 703-222-7314**

Four Savings Tips for Retirement

It's easy to procrastinate retirement planning. Unfortunately, procrastination may cause you to retire later or enjoy a lower standard of living during retirement.

Good saving habits can make a big difference. Here are four tips that can help:

1. Contribute to your deferred compensation plan.

Participating in your 457 plan is one of the best and most convenient ways to save for your future, plus it offers benefits you can enjoy today, such as:

- ♦ Lowering your current taxable income:

Contributions to your plan account are before-tax. That means they are made before taxes are taken out of your paycheck.

- ♦ Accelerated saving: If you are age 50 or older, catch-up contribution provisions offer an opportunity to accelerate saving by allowing you to contribute even more to the plan.

2. Increase the amount you're saving whenever you can.

Would you be willing to save \$3.27 a week if it meant you could have \$50,000 in the future? Small increases can make a big difference over time. Whenever you receive an increase in pay, make sure to boost your contribution rate.

The balance in your retirement account will depend on the return your investments earn; the example below is based on earning an 8 percent return.

Weekly Contribution Amount

Years until retirement	\$50,000 Balance weekly contribution amount	\$100,000 Balance weekly contribution amount	\$250,000 Balance weekly contribution amount
40	\$ 3.27	\$ 6.54	\$ 16.36
30	\$ 7.68	\$ 15.36	\$ 38.39
20	\$ 19.46	\$ 38.92	\$ 97.30
10	\$ 62.74	\$ 125.48	\$ 313.70

(This chart is for illustrative purposes only and is not meant to represent the performance of any of the investment options available in your plan. The results assume an 8 percent annual return compounded weekly. Your results will vary.)

3. Diversify your investments.

Investing in different types of investments, including stocks, bonds and stable value/money market options, can help lower the overall risk of your portfolio and, potentially, increase your overall return.

It's important to invest a portion of your savings in stocks or stock mutual funds, which have historically provided returns that outpace inflation.

Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect you against loss in declining markets.

4. Take saving seriously.

You may not be planning to retire until age 67, but that doesn't mean you should put off saving. If you start early, you can save less than you'll have to if you procrastinate for 10 years.

Consider the table below. If your goal is to save \$250,000, would you rather save \$16 per week for 40 years or \$314 per week for 10 years?

For additional information on saving for retirement, contact the Deferred Compensation Help Desk at 703-324-4995, TTY 703-222-7314. The Help Desk is located in the Department of Human Resources, Suite 270 in the Government Center. ■

Briefs

Briefs

Briefs

Child Safety Restraint Law Reminder

The Sheriff's Office reminds parents and caregivers that effective July 1 Virginia law requires that all children up to age 8 must be in a child restraint device (which includes a booster seat). The amended law also states that all rear-facing infant seats must be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. In the event the vehicle does not have a back seat, the rear-facing infant seat may be placed in the front passenger seat only if the vehicle is either not equipped with a passenger side airbag or the passenger side airbag has been deactivated. Contact Master Deputy Sheriffs **Henry Hunt** or **Leslie Sheehan**, 703-246-4768, TTY 711, with questions.

Animal Shelter Seeks to Expand Foster Care

Make a difference in the life of an animal – become a foster care provider for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. The shelter is looking to expand its family of foster care providers for kittens, cats and special-needs dogs.

Last year, the shelter's many foster families aided in helping more than 200 animals by providing short-term care for animals in need. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/foster.htm.

For more information, contact **Rebecca Jewell** at 703-324-0207, TTY 711, or rebecca.jewell@fairfax-county.gov.

New Mothers Room Opens at Herrity Building

The Office For Women announces that a Mothers Room is now open in the Herrity Building, Suite 1009, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Employees Advisory Council (EAC) purchased the lactation machine for the new Mothers Room. There are three other Mothers Rooms in place: the Government Center, Suite 420.V; Pennino, Suite 805; and South County, Suite 417.D. The rooms provide a clean and quiet place for lactating mothers. The Mothers Rooms are available for use by county employees from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Further information and the application are available on the Infoweb or by contacting the Office For Women, 703-324-5730; TTY 703-324-5706 (and to request reasonable ADA accommodations).

Vacation Out-of-Office Reminder

Before you leave for vacation, remember to let everyone know that you will be away from the office. It's easy to do using your voice mail message and the "Out-of-Office" tool on your e-mail. It is county policy that if you will be away from the office for one or more business days for any reason, you must indicate this on your voice mail and e-mail.

The Fairfax County Communication Strategy provides procedures and sample voice and e-mail messages for holidays or leave time. To find out all of the county policies and procedures, visit the Infoweb. Still have questions? Send an e-mail to commstrategy@fairfaxcounty.gov or call the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187, TTY 711.

Get Fairfax County Campaign

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) launched the "Get Fairfax County" marketing campaign last month to promote various ways residents and others can stay in touch with the county.

The tagline for the new campaign is "Get news. Get Information. Get Fairfax County." OPA promoted the campaign at its Celebrate Fairfax! booth with giveaways, including key rings, magnets and mouse pads.

An integral feature of the campaign is a link to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/getfairfax, which will pop up on Google when a search is done for Fairfax County or other select key words. The Get Fairfax County Web page provides links to these online features:

- News to Use
- E-Services
- Podcasts and Audio Downloads
- RSS Feeds
- Weekly Agenda
- Emergency Alerts

Residents also are encouraged to call 703-FAIRFAX (703-324-7329), TTY 711, during normal business hours to speak with a customer service representative.

For more information, contact **Jeremy Lasich**, OPA, at 703-324-3175, TTY 711, or jeremy.lasich@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Protect Against Rabies This Summer

Take care to enjoy natural wildlife from a distance this summer. Wild animals and strays can carry rabies, a virus that attacks the nervous system and can kill mammals, including humans. Remember to keep your pets' rabies vaccinations current – it's the law.

According to the Health Department, people should avoid contact with unfamiliar pets, stray animals, all wildlife and bats. Because the rabies virus is shed in the saliva of sick animals, health officials caution that

any animal bite or scratch should be taken seriously. Anyone bitten or scratched by an animal, wild or domestic, that results in a break in the skin or saliva in an open wound should wash the wound immediately with soap and water, notify Animal Services (a division of the Police Department) at 703-691-2131 (voice/TTY) and call a family physician for treatment advice.

If a bat is found in your home, immediately call Animal Services. Likewise, residents should imme-

diately contact Animal Services if their pet is bitten by a wild animal. All bites can be reported to Fairfax County Animal Services at 703-691-2131 (voice/TTY).

More information on rabies can be found at the Health Department Web page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/rabies.

Contact **Robert Johnson**, safety analyst, at 703-324-3043, TTY 711, or robert.johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov if you have any questions regarding summer-related safety issues. ■

Ceremony at PSTOC Facility on West Ox Road

The Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (PSTOC) under construction at the corner of West Ox Road and the Fairfax County Parkway reached a major milestone on Friday, June 22. County officials and the construction company celebrated the building's "Topping Out."

The "Topping Out" ceremony marked the milestone that the PSTOC building has been topped with a roof and the major structural construction has been completed. (Topping out is a tradition on major construction sites dating back to the 19th century in the United States.)

On hand to thank the construction crew for their efforts were **Roy Shrout**, acting director for the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), **Tracy Shelton**, PSTOC general manager, and **Hossein Malayeri**, project manager, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

When completed, PSTOC will include the Department of Public Safety Communicators (9-1-1 call center), OEM, the county's emergency operations center, Virginia State Police Division 7 call takers and



Inside the newly "topped out" PSTOC building are (left to right) Roy Shrout, Tracy Shelton and Hossein Malayeri.

dispatchers and the Virginia Department of Transportation Smart Traffic Center.

PSTOC is part of the county's West Ox Road complex that is under construction. When completed, the complex also will include a new forensics facility, a bus operations center, a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintenance facility, as well as a VDOT administration building.

PSTOC is scheduled to be substantially completed by the spring/sum-

mer of 2008.

For more information on the West Ox Road complex, including details on PSTOC, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/westox. ■

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