

# Courier

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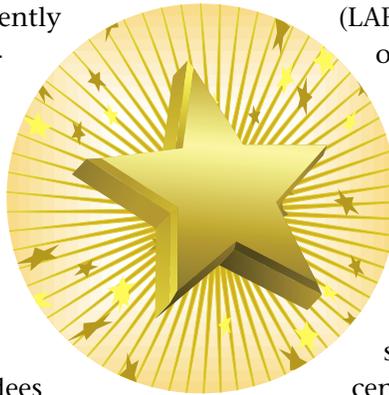
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## County Earns Several Honors

Several county agencies and individuals have recently been recognized with national and local awards for outstanding work.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) presented two 2007 Achievement Awards to the county on July 15 at its meeting in Richmond. The awardees are a public-nonprofit partnership for a cultural arts center in Lorton, supported by the Department of Management and Budget (DMB) and the library's teen volunteer fair program.



The nonprofit Lorton Arts Foundation (LAF) developed a vision for reuse of the Occoquan Workhouse site, 56 acres of the 2,434.13-acre former correctional facility. The plan for the property includes artist studios, art gallery and exhibition space, prison museum, theater and performing arts studios, multi-purpose events center, visitors and community heritage center and administrative offices. Also planned is construction of two upscale restaurants, an artist colony with approximately 40 housing units and an

*Honors, see page 2*

## Fire and Rescue by the Numbers

It's all in the numbers. While you may be among the fortunate who have not needed the assistance of the Fire and Rescue Department (FRD), the numbers show that the busy department is providing important lifesaving and safety education services to countless residents, visitors and businesses. An all-hazards fire and rescue department, the firefighters and support personnel serve around-the-clock to protect lives, property and the environment.

FRD staff respond to approximately 250 emergency calls daily and more than 90,000 annually. About 113 patients are transported each day. Last year, the department tested 10,237 fire systems, conducted 17,127 inspections and reviewed 9,130 building plans.



**Firefighters on the scene at an apartment fire. Photos provided by FRD.**

*Numbers, see page 2*

*Honors, from page 1*

indoor/outdoor performance center.

DMB, Wachovia Bank and the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority collaborated in assembling the financing for the development and operation of the project. More information may be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/lorton\\_arts\\_project.html](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/lorton_arts_project.html).

Since it began in 2004, the library's "Sharing the Wealth – Teen Volunteer Fairs" project has connected more than 1,500 teens with non-profit agencies and government organizations that need volunteer help at a series of volunteer fairs held each October. In 2006, the teen volunteer fairs involved four library branches, serving more than 30 organizations and assisting 600 students.

The library planning group developed an 11-page youth volunteer fair kit to share with other library branches. For more information,

visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/libraries](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/libraries).

Board of Supervisors Chairman **Gerald E. Connolly** was presented with the 2007 Tom Bradley Leadership Award on June 25 by the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) at its annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

The nomination for the award described the chairman as "perhaps the region's most respected elected official and one whose opinion is sought on a wide range of issues because of his analytical skills, his ability to find a path that leads to consensus and his leadership on tough issues, including transportation and homeland security."

**Peter Schroth**, director of the Department of Human Resources, was presented with the Jack Foster Executive of the Year Award by the Local Government Personnel Association of the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area

*Honors, see page 3*

*Numbers, from page 1*

In 2006, staff also provided fire and safety education to 16,646 pre-school children; 10,042 children in the Department of Family Services' School Age Child Care Program; and taught 14,320 older adults on fire safety and injury prevention. Another 422 children

participated in an educational intervention program targeted to juvenile firesetters and administered by nationally certified personnel.

FRD emergency services include fires, medical services, property loss control, vehicle

extrication, water rescue, building collapse, high-angle rope rescue, brush fires, hazardous materials removal and property preservation.

Non-emergency services include fire investigations, environmental crimes, local emergency planning, hoarding and abatement enforcement, state license facility inspection, testing and retesting of fire protection and

alarm systems, safety inspections for day care and group homes, fire and life safety education and code development.

Firefighters and 37 fire and rescue stations are strategically placed throughout the county within seven geographical battalions, providing the quickest response possible.

FRD has a fleet of approximately 470 vehicles including paramedic engines, fire trucks, heavy rescue companies, advanced life support units, basic life support units or ambulances, tankers, a hazardous materials unit, a support unit and rescue boats.

The department participates within Northern Virginia as part of a mutual emergency response agreement providing emergency care with the closest emergency response unit available to the emergency.

FRD also is home to Virginia Task Force 1, a highly trained, self-sustaining unit that uses specialized equipment and is deployable nationwide and worldwide to help with disaster assistance. It is activated by either the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). ■

*By Dan Schmidt, Fire and Rescue Department*



**FRD staff provide medical services to an accident victim.**

Honors, from page 2



**Peter Schroth with his award. Photo provided by DHR**

on June 15. Schroth has been the director of DHR since 1993.

The Northern Virginia chapter of the American Society for Public Administration recognized the Police Department Cold Case Squad with its 2007 Public Service Award. The award recognizes an individual, private institution or public organization for promoting the role and

ideals of public administration. Detectives **Steven G. Milefsky** and **Robert J. Murphy** were honored for their professionalism; their dedication, their knowledge, expertise, high level of skill; and their extremely significant contributions to public safety.

The Police Department also was honored last month with the James M. Scott Community Spirit Award presented by Celebrate Fairfax! Inc. Accepting the award on behalf of the county were Board of Supervisors Chairman **Gerald E. Connolly**, County Executive **Anthony H. Griffin**, Assistant to the County Executive **Cathy Chianese**, Deputy Chief of Police Lt. Col. **Chuck Peters** and Maj. **Mike Lomonaco**.

The department was honored for expanding its role at Celebrate Fairfax! last year by assuming greater involvement in safety and security planning and the integration of public safety. The department championed the efforts to incorporate the Alternate Emergency Operations Center (AEOC) into festival safety plans and guided Celebrate Fairfax!, Inc. staff through the re-working of the organization's emergency plan. In addition, in 2006, just one month after the fatal shootings at the Sully District station, the police officers graciously took on added responsibilities and performed their duties with professionalism, pride and enthusiasm.

The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services' (DPWES) Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant recently received the Platinum Peak Performance Award from

the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. This distinction was given to only 76 of the approximately 16,500 municipal wastewater treatment plants across the nation. Located in Lorton, it is the largest advanced wastewater treatment plant in Virginia.

In addition, DPWES' Wastewater Management program has received the designation of Exemplary Environmental Enterprise, or E3, from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Less than one-fifth of the several hundred facilities involved in the program have reached the E3 level.

The Board of Supervisors recognized the agency's achievements at its July 9 meeting.

The Department of Vehicle Services (DVS) also has successfully renewed its participation in the state's DEQ Environmental Excellence Program at the Environmental Enterprise (E2) level. At a July 12 presentation, DEQ lauded DVS for its environmental efforts and commitment to recycling wastes at its facilities. ■



**The DEQ presentation to DVS on July 12 included (front row, left to right) DVS facility supervisors Cecil Terrell (Jermantown), Jim Holbert (Newington), Jim Mitchell (West Ox) and (back row, left to right) Tom Griffin, DEQ environmental program analyst and editor; Jim Gorby, director, DVS; Ed Long, deputy county executive; Bill Davis, DVS superintendent (Alban) and Anthony H. Griffin, county executive.**

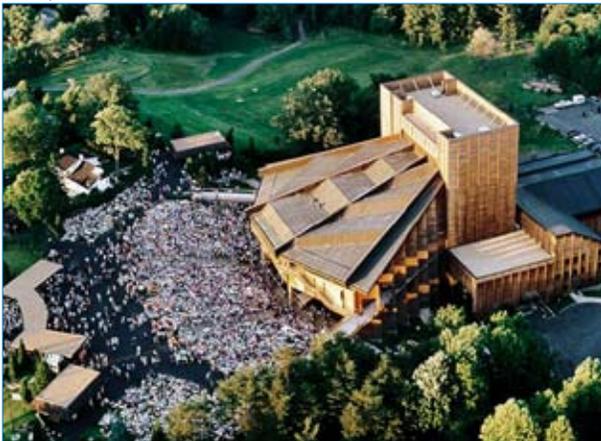
# History, Tours, Music and More

Visit Fairfax is offering residents and visitors several self-guided tours this summer of Fairfax County and the Capital Area Region. Explore the history and culture of African-Americans in the Capital Region; follow in the footsteps of Confederate and Union forces through Civil War battle sites; and find the East Coast's best shopping and entertainment at Tysons Corner and Wolf Trap – all on just one tank of gas.

You can find these and other one-day, two-day and five-day experiences at [www.fxva.com](http://www.fxva.com).

There are also online special offers available now through Labor Day to more than 40 county hotels, numerous area restaurants and several attractions including George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, the National Air and Space Museum Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center and George Mason's Gunston Hall. For more details and to download the special offers, visit [www.fxva.com](http://www.fxva.com).

Visit Fairfax is a nonprofit organization promoting tourism in Fairfax County and supported by the county and Board of Supervisors.



*Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna is a popular summertime destination for residents. Photo provided by Visit Fairfax.*

## Free Music and Entertainment, too

You also can enjoy a summer full of free top-notch entertainment at 15 county parks and venues, sponsored by the Park Authority in partnership with the Board of Supervisors.

"The Early Bird Catches the Show" children's entertainment series is held Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. throughout the summer at E.C.



*Revolutionary War reenactors were part of the festivities at this year's July 4th celebration at Mount Vernon.*

Lawrence Park and Mason District Park.

The "Braddock Nights" series of Friday evening concerts are held at Lake Accotink and Royal Lake. There are also Thursday evening concerts at Ossian Hall.

The "Lee District Nights" concert series is held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at the Lee District Park Amphitheater in Franconia and at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evenings at Kingstowne Towne Center.

The "Nottoway Nights" concert series takes place Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park in Vienna.

The "Spotlight by Starlight" concert series offers a wide variety of musical genres on Friday, Wednesday and Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. at the Mason District Park amphitheater in Annandale.

"The Starlight Cinema" series of drive-in movies will be held Saturday nights in August at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Centre in Centreville. The movies can be enjoyed from a car or outdoors in a designated seating area.

For last-minute performance cancellations due to inclement weather, call 703/324-SHOW (7469), TTY 711, one hour prior to the program start time.

For more information, including performers, dates, times and directions, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances). ■

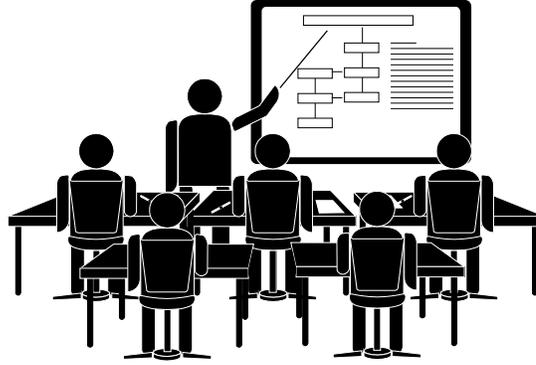
# Training Update From OD&T

County Executive **Anthony H. Griffin** rolled out the new Employee Development and Learning Program in 2006. The foundation of this learning approach is the Countywide Competency Map for Employee Development, which identifies the competencies that promote leadership and learning at every level. As part of an evolving approach to expand and enhance the county's training program, the Organizational Development and Training Division (OD&T) prepared a catalog that aligns training and competencies to all levels in the organization. The Training Resource Catalog describes a variety of classroom courses, as well as other learning opportunities and resources to enable each employee to plan for his or her own career development with Fairfax County.

The response to having this information provided in one easy-to-use catalog was overwhelmingly positive. Feedback indicates that employees like being able to identify the courses they need to develop their careers and can plan accordingly instead of waiting to fit training in as time and offerings allow.

When the catalog was initially released, the county executive noted that this is an evolving program. While there are courses and other learning opportunities to address many of the competencies, OD&T knew that some areas would require development. Training staff in OD&T have been working to fill those gaps. A request for proposals was released this summer seeking providers of training, organizational development and executive coaching services that align with the Countywide Competency Map. OD&T staff, with assistance from several agency training coordinators, are reviewing these proposals to determine which best fit the county's needs. Contract awards are expected by early fall.

It is anticipated that there will be multiple contract awards to provide training, organizational development and executive coaching services not only through OD&T, but through agencies that wish to use these contracts. This will save agency staff considerable time by not



having to go through the competitive procurement process since a number of contracts will already be in place. These contracts are expected to run for three years, with the option to extend. Agency feedback to OD&T will be essential to monitoring this performance.

Hundreds of county employees are attending classes this summer, working to develop skills that will enable the county to respond to the changing demands of customers, technology shifts and other requirements. Most of these classes can be self-registered for in the Pathlore learning management system, accessed at <http://infoweb/hr/training>. All classes require supervisory approval; however, there is no charge to the agency. An exception is computer classes for which there is a nominal charge.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Since there is a significant demand for most county classes, resulting in many being full or wait-listed, it is critical if you can not attend that you provide notification at least three days before the class. This allows someone on the wait list to be able to receive the training and maximizes the county's investment. ■

To access the Training Resource Catalog with the Countywide Competency Map, as well as the training schedule through September 2007, go to: <http://infoweb/hr/training>.

## Focus on Benefits



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

# Deferred Compensation Fees

Knowing the cost of investing in mutual funds is important in helping you reach your retirement investment goals. All investments have fees and understanding them will help you know what expenses you pay while participating in your deferred compensation plan or other investment programs.

Because the county's deferred compensation plan is so large (approximately \$500 million in assets), these fees are generally lower than you would pay if you were to invest monies through a broker or other source.

Through a career of saving and investing, fee differences of only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 1 percent could affect your total wealth in retirement by tens of thousands of dollars. Your plan providers and the mutual fund companies assess fees in a variety of ways for the services they provide. Common fees include:

**Fund Expense** – Every mutual fund has an expense ratio, which includes costs for managing assets in the fund, marketing and distribution, and operating expenses. This fee is charged as a percent of assets and, therefore, is not generally visible. Under the county's deferred compensation plan, mutual fund expenses range from .05 to 1.43 percent\*.

Generally speaking, more actively traded funds have higher expense ratios. However, higher expenses do not necessarily mean higher rates of return. An additional 0.25 percent fund expense on a \$50,000 investment would result in an additional expense of \$125 at the end of the first investment year. Assuming an average return of 7 percent over a 20-year investment period, the additional 0.25 percent expense would cost the participant an additional \$5,393.47.

The majority of mutual funds that are offered under the county's plan have expense ratios that are less than the industry benchmarks for the fund category.

The fund expense for every offered fund is on the deferred compensation fund returns report on the Infoweb and also in each fund's prospectus. The deferred compensation fund returns report reflects the fund returns net

of the fund expenses (i.e., after the fees have been deducted).

**Plan Administrative Fee** – This is a fee a provider may charge to cover many of the administrative costs associated with a participant's account and available services. If charged, this fee is explicitly noted on the participant's quarterly statement. Under the county's plan, the administrative fees vary based on provider, and range from 0 – 37 basis points\*. One basis point equals 1 percent of 1 percent (.0001). For example, 20 basis points in administrative fees on a \$50,000 investment would result in an additional participant fee of \$25 per quarter or \$100 per year.

**Redemption Fee** – Some mutual funds charge a redemption fee on assets held less than a defined period of time and withdrawn or transferred from the fund. The fee is self-imposed by mutual fund companies in an effort to combat day-trading, allowing long-term shareholders to recoup trading costs generated by frequent traders of mutual fund shares. International funds usually have this type of fee, but it could also be assessed on other funds.

**Sales Charges** – There are no sales charges for funds in the deferred compensation plan.

By understanding the costs of investing, you will be better prepared to reach your investment goals. Remember that higher fees do not necessarily mean better performance, and lower fees do not necessarily mean poorer performance. Compare the net returns relative to the risks among available investment options.

If you need assistance in understanding the investment options available under the county's plan and associated fees, contact the Deferred Compensation Help Desk at 703-324-4995, TTY 711. ■

\*Data as of June 30, 2007.

## Briefs

## Appointments

Board of Supervisors Chairman **Gerald E. Connolly** has been elected chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC). NVRC is a coalition of 14 cities, towns and counties that work together on regional issues including the environment and land use, transportation, human services, legislative analysis and emergency planning. Connolly served as NVRC vice chairman for two years and previously served as NVRC treasurer and chairman of the Operations Committee. He will continue as chairman of the NVRC Legislative Committee. Connolly's two-year term began July 1. He has represented Fairfax County on NVRC since 1996.

**Paula Sampson**, director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, has been named to the Washington, D.C., area steering committee for the ULI Terwilliger Center for Workforce Housing. The center will identify innovative solutions to barriers to affordable workforce housing and address ways to promote its development. Plans call for the center to create models of mixed income workforce housing design, development and financing that can be replicated nationwide. Initially, the center will focus on three markets — Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and southeast Florida.

## Help Serve Free Summer Meals to Kids

Hunger does not take a summer vacation. When school ends for the summer so do the school breakfast and school lunch programs. That's when the Summer Meals for Kids program, sponsored by the Depart-

ment of Community and Recreation Services (CRS), takes over and provides free nutritious meals to eligible children. Come out and help serve meals at a variety of sites for the program, which runs Monday through Friday until Aug. 31.

Breakfast is from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You can also help by telling others about the summer meals program.

For a list of meal sites and eligibility, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec) or call 703-324-5330, TTY 711.

## ExtravaCATza! Adoption Event

Fairfax County's fabulous felines are waiting for great new homes at the second annual ExtravaCATza! adoption event at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax.

The shelter will host special Sunday adoption hours on July 22 and 29 from noon to 4 p.m. and will be open regular adoption hours Tuesday - Friday from



10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by and visit with the shelter's fanCATstic felines. The first 100 cats or kittens adopted will receive a free spay or neuter.

For more information and reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-830-1100, TTY 711, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices).

## New Police Hot Line

The Police Department has a new telephone hot line to handle an increasing number of residents' complaints about large commercial dumpsters and self-contained storage units on the streets in their neighborhoods. The hot line number, 703-280-0583, TTY 711, is available around-the-clock. Residents can alert police to a potential problem with the location of a commercial dumpster or self-contained storage unit on the street. This hot line should not be used to report issues involving self-contained storage units on private property (i.e. in a neighbor's driveway).

## Coming in September: A New Look for Courier

Courier is being redesigned to be more user-friendly and easier to read. Look for the "new" Courier debuting in September. Please note that the next issue of Courier is Aug. 3 and there will be no regular issue until Sept. 14. An emergency preparedness supplement will be distributed to employees at the end of August. If you have any questions, contact **Lisa Connors** at [courier@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:courier@fairfaxcounty.gov), or call 703-324-3197, TTY 711.



## Fast Access to Often-Used Documents in Microsoft Word

You can keep frequently used documents readily available on Microsoft Word's menu bar so you don't have to use the File menu and search through files and folders to find them. You do this by adding a Work menu to Word's menu bar.

Go to View ⇒ Toolbars ⇒ Customize, choose the Commands tab, and select Built-in Menus from the list of categories. Then choose Work from the list of commands and drag it to

where you want it on the top-line menu. It is on the same line as the File, Edit and View menu options.

From your new menu, choose Add to work menu to attach a file-name to the menu.

Note: To add a file to the work menu the file must already be saved. To remove a file name, press Ctrl-Alt-Minus and click on the item you want to remove. ■

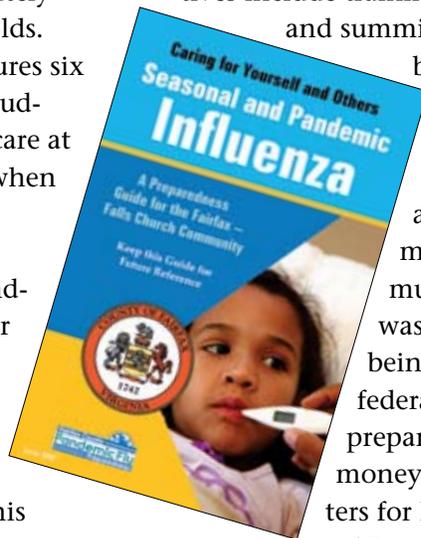
## Influenza Preparedness Guides in the Mail

This week the Health Department began mailing a reference guide, "Caring for Yourself and Others: Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza," to approximately 420,000 county households.

The 17-page guide features six color-coded sections including information on self-care at home and guidance on when to seek medical care.

"People should expect – and plan for – an extended stay at home if they or someone in their family gets sick with flu," said **Gloria Addo-Ayensu**, M.D., M.P.H., Health Department director. "This guide helps individuals prepare, protect themselves and others from catching the flu, and it provides information on how to administer care at home."

Copies of the guide also are available to employees who reside outside the county. To get your copy, call the Health Department's pandemic flu program at 703-246-6014, TTY 711. Employees also can download a copy from the Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu).



This is just one component of a major pandemic flu preparedness effort being undertaken by the county. Other recent outreach initiatives include trainings, conferences and summits for physicians,

businesses, child-care providers, faith-based organizations and other segments of the community. The guide was produced and is being mailed using federal pandemic flu preparedness grant money from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The county's Pandemic Flu Response Plan is online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu). The county will continue its outreach activities and hosting educational events to help residents, businesses, health care providers and community organizations prepare for pandemic flu and other public health emergencies.

For more information about the county's pandemic flu preparedness, call the Health Department at

703-246-2411, TTY 703-591-6435, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd). Additional pandemic flu resources are available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu). ■

**Courier** is published most payday Fridays. The deadline for articles and information is two weeks before publication.

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See *Courier* online at <http://infoweb/courier>.

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## Tech Tip # 114

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