



October 2010

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DC Candlelighters  
Health Department's Community  
Health Survey**

**Sully District e-Newsletter**

### **DC Candlelighters Finalist for National Classy Award**

Centreville's own Meg Crossett along with West Springfield's Jen Click co-founded DC Candlelighters in 2007 to provide support to families facing childhood cancer. The group is an all volunteer non-profit that provides financial, emotional, and educational support to the families. DC Candlelighters won the Washington DC Classy Award for Small Charity of the Year and they are now in the finals for the National Award, which comes with a \$10, 000 prize that would go far in assisting families in the area, paying for medicine, household bills and transportation for cancer treatment.

Please support them by casting your vote at:  
<http://www.classyawards.stayclassy.org/>

Voting is open until November 5th and the winner will be announced November 7th.

### **Community Health Survey Oct. 15 – Nov. 15 Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax**

Our community has embarked on a mission to improve community health. Leading the way are people who live, work or play here. This partnership involves you, as well!

Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax is a coalition of community members and diverse organizations working together to improve community health in the Fairfax community, which includes Fairfax County, the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Clifton, Herndon and Vienna.

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A critical component of the Partnership's work is a Community Health Survey. The brief anonymous survey will be posted online October 15 – November 15, 2010, at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/mapp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/mapp) (printable versions of the survey are also available on the website in five languages). Everyone who lives, works, or plays in the Fairfax community is encouraged to take a few minutes to answer some simple questions. This is a chance to get involved and make a difference as we work together to improve community health. Your opinion counts!

The survey is one part of a larger process. Local public health leaders and Partnership members are working together, following a nationally recognized process called Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP). The framework helps communities like Fairfax apply strategic thinking to prioritize public health issues and identify resources to address them. The MAPP process includes six phases that take about 18 months to complete. The Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax is currently in the "assessment phase" of the MAPP process. The assessments together will provide a comprehensive picture of the community using both qualitative and quantitative methods.

- The Local Public Health System Assessment evaluates the collective performance of all of the organizations and entities that contribute to the public's health.
- The Forces of Change Assessment identifies trends, factors and events that are likely to influence community health and quality of life or impact the work of the local public health system.
- The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment gathers input from community members to develop a meaningful understanding of the issues they feel are important.
- The Community Health Status Assessment analyzes the public health status of the community through the collection and evaluation of key health indicator data.

Each assessment yields important information for improving community health, but the value of the MAPP assessments is multiplied by considering the findings as a whole. In the coming months, the Partnership will evaluate results of the MAPP assessments. Members will identify strategic issues, formulate goals, and develop broad strategies for making the coalition's vision a reality: ***"Fairfax – an engaged and empowered community working together to achieve optimal health and well-being for all who live, work or play here."***

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The MAPP process will impact how the local public health system—made up of many diverse government and community organizations—develops and implements an action plan for addressing priority goals and objectives over the next ten years or more.

To learn more about the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax or to get involved, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/mapp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/mapp), e-mail us at [hdmapp@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:hdmapp@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-246-8856.



Michael

Michael R. Frey  
Sully District Supervisor  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard  
Chantilly, Virginia 20151  
703 814-7100  
703 814-7110 fax  
[Sully@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Sully@fairfaxcounty.gov)

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