



## Your Voice in Fairfax County

September 22, 2022

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**Pushing Panhandling Solutions Forward Again** – At the Board’s October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting I will be again asking the Board to address panhandling through a curb-to-curb safety ordinance, signs discouraging giving to panhandlers, as well as a public education campaign to share with residents and businesses the comprehensive resources the County provides for those in need. While surrounding jurisdictions like Loudoun County have found ways to address panhandling, the Fairfax County Board continues to ignore this public safety issue. In my [May newsletter](#), I shared with you how the Board opted for a study to determine if panhandling is a public safety issue in lieu of my motion to move forward with the solutions the Board had already discussed and set in motion back in 2019. It is time to get this public safety issue addressed before anyone else is killed.

### Other News and Information

- **Incorrect Voter Information Mailed – Springfield District**
- **Virtual Talk Meeting with the West Springfield Police Department (Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>)**
- **Early Voting Begins (Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>)**
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**Pushing Panhandling Solutions Forward Again** – At the Board’s October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting I will be again asking the Board to address panhandling through a curb-to-curb safety ordinance, signs discouraging giving to panhandlers, as well as a public education campaign to share with residents and businesses the comprehensive resources the County provides for those in need. While surrounding jurisdictions have found ways to address panhandling, the Fairfax County Board continues to ignore this public safety issue. In my [May newsletter](#), I shared with you how the Board opted for a study to determine if panhandling is a public safety issue in lieu of my motion to move forward with the solutions the Board had already discussed and set in motion back in 2019. The results of that study came back to the Board recently in a [memorandum](#) showing that the County does not collect the data necessary to prove (or disprove) that panhandling is a public safety issue, even though it “appears dangerous and generates considerable public complaint.” The Board is waiting for data to prove what we tell our kids as



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**Sports Tourism Task Force**

commonsense: it is not safe to stand in or hang out by the side of the road.

I have personally seen multiple instances where panhandling in the medians has resulted in a very dangerous situation for the panhandler as well as surrounding motorists. Whether it's unexpected braking during a green light, a panhandler stepping into the road to collect money or bending down for a water bottle while on a very narrow median as traffic moves around them, these are accidents waiting to happen. Tragically, we have already had one fatality of a panhandler who was hit when a car crash took place adjacent to the median where he was standing.

Some of our neighboring counties have successfully dealt with this issue. Loudoun County passed an ordinance in 2013 prohibiting prohibit exchanging any item between a pedestrian and occupant of a vehicle in a travel lane, with exceptions such as for law enforcement. This is very similar to the ordinance I proposed with Supervisor Cook in 2019, which would prohibit any engagement with motorists from curb-to-curb. This is not an issue of free speech if the same rule applies to all in order to protect all. Since implementing this ordinance, Loudoun County has seen a significant and noticeable drop in the number of people panhandling at intersections.

Based on the feedback I have received from residents; this is clearly a public safety issue and one that they want us to address. I look forward to sharing with you the outcome of these proposals at October Board meeting. If you are also concerned about this issue, I strongly encourage you to reach out to share your feedback with the entire Board by emailing [ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov).

I have been working to address the panhandling issue for a number of years and hope with your help we can get the public safety concerns addressed. I am also proud to have helped push forward [Operation Stream Shield](#), a work program that has successfully helped thousands of people get off the streets and into full-time jobs by offering paid work as an alternative to panhandling. For more on my efforts and thoughts on addressing panhandling, please see my previous newsletters:

[May 12, 2022: Why Haven't We Done Anything on Panhandling?](#)

[September 12, 2019: Next Steps in Addressing Panhandling in our Community](#)

[July 17, 2019: Addressing Panhandling in our Community](#)

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- **Early Voting Begins (Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>)**
- **Tolling and HOV Rules on New Express Lanes (Sept 24<sup>th</sup>)**
- **Fire Prevention Week and Department Open Houses @ All 39 Fire Stations (Oct 15<sup>th</sup>)**
- **Enjoy the Arts at GMU for the 2022-2023 Season**

## Other News and Information



## Four-Legged Friend



Reginald looks like a chocolate bunny who came to life! This adorable little guy is about 8 months old and weighs 3.7 pounds. He found himself at our shelter because there were too many rabbits in his last home, but now he has a chance to get some one-on-one attention, and he can't wait to join your family! If you would like to meet Reginald, [click here to arrange a visit](#).

## **Incorrect Voter Information Mailed**

The Department of Elections notified us that they sent 1,200 residents in the Springfield District notices that they were in the Providence Magisterial District when they were actually in the Springfield District. These were primarily in the Willow Springs precinct. We are inquiring as to how many mistaken or incorrect notices were sent county wide.

A corrected notice will be sent to residents shortly. Please note the 1,200 notices reportedly had the correct precinct, polling place, and Congressional District for the upcoming election. If you would like to confirm your district, you can click [here](#) for more information. If you believe the information is incorrect, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

## **Virtual Talk Meeting with the West Springfield Police Department on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Did you know the West Springfield District Station covers over 66 square miles, has over 200,000 community members, 40 public schools, 70 houses of worship, around 110 police officers, and ten different patrol areas? If you would like to know more about the district, crime prevention, or just have questions, join the West Springfield Police Department on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 6:30PM for a community meeting. You can use the link below:

<https://fairfaxcounty.zoom.us/j/85137045348?pwd=aFZzL1VtbUhNUVRLcoswb2xJTEp2dz09>

Password: 880058

## **Early Voting Begins on September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

In-person early voting for the Local and Congressional races starts at three locations in Fairfax County. I know some residents were redistricted and may have a hard time finding out where they vote, so please use this link to help you: [Lookup \(virginia.gov\)](#). Additional locations will open on October 27. Please see the chart below for full details on times and locations:

## **September 23 – November 5**

**Fairfax County Government Center  
12000 Government Center Pkwy  
Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax 22035**

**Hours of operation:**

**Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Three Saturdays (September 24, October 29, November 5): 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**One Sunday (October 30th): 1 - 5 p.m.**

**Mt. Vernon Governmental Center  
2511 Parkers Lane Alexandria, 22306  
North County Governmental Center  
1801 Cameron Glen Drive Reston, 20190**

**Hours of operation:**

**Weekdays: 1 - 7 p.m.**

**Three Saturdays (September 24, October 29, November**

5): 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
One Sunday (October 30th): 1 - 5 p.m.  
**October 27 – November 5**

**Burke Centre Library**  
5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke 22015  
**Centreville Regional Library**  
14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville 20121  
**Franconia Governmental Center**  
6121 Franconia Rd, Alexandria 22310  
**Great Falls Library**  
9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls 22066  
**Herndon-Fortnightly Library**  
768 Center Street, Herndon 20170  
**Lorton Community Center**  
9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton 22079  
**Mason Governmental Center**  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale 22003  
**McLean Governmental Center**  
1437 Balls Hill Rd, McLean 22101  
**Providence Community Center**  
3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax 22031  
**Sully Governmental Center**  
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly 20151  
**Thomas Jefferson Library**  
7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church 22042  
**Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library**  
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church 22043  
**West Springfield Governmental Center**  
6140 Rolling Road, Springfield 22152

**Hours of operation:**

**Weekdays:** 1 - 7 p.m.

**Two Saturdays (October 29 & November 5):** 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**One Sunday (October 30):** 1 - 5 p.m.

**Tolling and HOV Rules on New Express Lanes Begin on September 24<sup>th</sup>**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and I-66 Express Mobility Partners (EMP), the Commonwealth's private partner and operator of the new 66 Express Lanes, announced today that tolling and high occupancy vehicle (HOV) rules will begin this Saturday, Sept. 24, on the recently opened western section of 66 Express Lanes. Motorists will be able to use this nine-mile stretch of new Express Lanes from Route 29 in Gainesville to Route 28 in Centreville by paying a toll or can ride toll-free if traveling as an HOV with two or more people and an E-ZPass Flex.

The westernmost segment of 66 Express Lanes opened to all traffic toll-free on Sept. 10, providing motorists with early travel benefits and the opportunity to become familiar with the new lanes and access points. This section of Express Lanes opened ahead of schedule, and in advance of the remaining 13 miles of 66 Express Lanes from Route 28 in Centreville to I-495 (Capital Beltway), which currently are scheduled to open in December 2022.

Visit [Ride66Express.com](https://ride66express.com) to learn more about 66 Express Lanes, and [Transform66.org](https://transform66.org) to stay informed about I-66 construction activities.

## Fire Prevention Week and Department Open Houses at All 39 Fire Stations on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM

Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as one to two minutes to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms, advance planning, and practice. You can prevent and prepare for home fires with simple but important steps during Fire Prevention Week this October. More information on this week can be found [here](#).

In conjunction with this week, after a two-year pandemic hiatus, our county fire stations will once again open their doors this fall to welcome members of the community to visit, tour, talk to firefighters, see our vehicles, and learn about fire safety and prevention. All 39 fire stations will be open to the public, including the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department (9501 Old Burke Road, Burke). This year's annual Open House is from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 15**, and the theme is **"Fire won't wait. Plan your escape."**

### Enjoy the Arts at GMU for the 2022-2023 Season



Mason's Center for the Arts hosts a variety of performances for the entire family. Enjoy performances by Broadway's Kristin Chenoweth, the Virginia Opera, and the 5 Browns to extraordinarily talented musicians such as Robert McDuffie. Learn more about the Center for the Arts' 2022/23 season at <https://cfa.gmu.edu/events/2022-2023-season>.

### Pat Herryty

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