

Sull-E Newsletter



A message from Kathy Smith



I visited Our Neighbor's Child (ONC) this past Wednesday, and saw the volunteers in action. ONC is a non-profit organization that provides holiday gifts for families in need in western Fairfax County. Thank you to all of the volunteers that help to make sure these families have a wonderful holiday.

The new Fairfax County website is launching today! I encourage you to take a look around the new site, and the new [Sully District page](#). The new website is resident-focused, and includes a responsive design for any device. If you encounter any broken links or issues with the Sully District page, please email my office at sully@fairfaxcounty.gov.

In this week's newsletter you will find information about how to assist our homeless community this winter, a Fairfax County Animal Shelter adoption event, tips on how to prevent your pipes from freezing, and much more.

Sincerely,

Kathy

Cautious Budget Outlook for Upcoming Fiscal Year 2019



Our county government is undergoing several [economic success](#) initiatives to grow and diversify our economy. Home sales, jobs and other key [economic indicators](#) are improving. However, both the county's and public schools' budgets are being impacted by concerns about state revenue and uncertainty about federal tax reform and fiscal policies.

A cautious fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget forecast was presented by county and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) representatives on Tuesday, November 28, to a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and School Board. Each November, the county and FCPS announce their budget forecast to residents, county agencies, the business community and elected officials, which include expected tax revenues and significant funding needs for the upcoming fiscal year budget. By state law, the county must have a balanced budget.

Bottom Line Forecast for FY 2019:

Based on data available to date, county revenue growth is projected at 2.6 percent, which generates \$124 million in additional revenue for FY 2019 (begins July 1, 2018). After reserves, this leaves \$121 million to cover:

- \$113 million in county funding priorities, and
- \$127 million in FCPS disbursement requirements (funding needs), offset by \$20 million in projected increases in FCPS revenue noted below.

As a result, a budgetary shortfall is forecast for FY 2019 which must be addressed before the budget is adopted in May.

County Budget Revenue Forecast:

Real estate tax revenue accounts for approximately 65 percent of the county's general fund budget. Budget impacts from real estate tax include:

Residential Real Estate: Home prices in the county are projected to increase 1.9 percent in FY 2019.

- Home prices are up 3.4 percent through October.

Commercial Real Estate: Commercial (nonresidential) property values are projected to increase 3.20 percent in FY 2019.

- Office vacancy rates remain at historically elevated levels, but are on a downward trend. As of mid-year 2017, the direct office vacancy rate is 15.4 percent, the lowest since 2014.

FCPS Budget Revenue Forecast:

FCPS receives more than 71 percent of its funding from the county government. In FY 2018 that amount is 52.8 percent of the county's general fund budget, or close to \$2.2 billion. In addition, FCPS receives state and federal funding.

The FY 2019 forecast for non-county revenue (after a beginning balance decrease of \$9.4 million), includes:

- State Revenue: \$22.6 million, a 5.1 percent increase over current FY 2018 revenue.
- State Sales Tax: \$3.9 million
- Federal Aid: \$1.6 million (federal budget impacts are still unknown)
- Fairfax City and other Revenue: \$1.6 million

For more information, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/cautious-budget-outlook-for-upcoming-fiscal-year-2019/>.

Converting Empty Office Buildings into New Uses



As it continues to grapple with more than 18 million square feet in empty office space, the county approved [changes to our land use plan](#) to more easily allow these vacant buildings to be turned into other uses, such as apartments, schools, co-working spaces or food incubators.

The [Board of Supervisors](#) signed off on the change during its [Dec. 5 meeting](#).

The action allows these offices to be turned into other uses without requiring a site-specific change to the land use plan. To be eligible, buildings must be in areas planned for mixed use or industrial development, like Tysons, Dulles and Merrifield, and they need to meet specific guidelines to ensure the new uses fit in with the surrounding development.

Most buildings proposed to be repurposed will need rezoning approval by the board. This process incorporates opportunities for community input, including

public hearings. County officials also retain the right to require a reuse project to go through a site-specific land use change.

The new land use policy follows [recommendations of a workgroup](#) that studied how older, empty offices can be repurposed.

[Read the Office Repositioning & Repurposing Report](#)

Examples of Office Reuse:

While the policy is new, the county has already allowed the reuse of empty office buildings. For example, county leaders approved the conversion of a five-story office building into a school, [Bailey's Upper Elementary](#), which opened in 2014. The county's first high-rise school, it is located in a former, five-story brick office building across from the Seven Corners Shopping Center.

More recently, the board approved the conversion of a [10-story office building at 5600 Columbia Pike](#) into flexible live-work units. The building stood empty for about four years, and it will put the 173,000- square foot building back into use in an innovative way that meets market demands.

Addressing High Vacancy Rates:

The policy will help the county economically as it deals with high office vacancy rates. It will speed up the time to market for getting these buildings back into use, and it accommodates the demand for new kinds of uses like co-working or co-living spaces, food incubators and urban farming.

While vacancy rates have dropped to their lowest rate since 2014, the need for office space has been shrinking overall, driven by factors including emerging technology and teleworking. To come up with the new land use policy, planners looked at both where the highest office vacancies are located and the county's overall land use strategy.

Where Office Reuse Makes Sense:

The highest concentrations of older offices, with a vacancy rate above 70 percent are found in the county's mixed-use centers. This includes areas like Dulles, Fairfax Center, Merrifield and Tysons. These areas planned for mixed-use development are also many of the same ones where the land use plan calls for focusing future growth.

Besides location, county officials also considered criteria for eligible office buildings. The policy sets seven conditions for reuse proposals. For example, these new uses must be compatible with surrounding development, offer more ways for pedestrians to access the building and consider impacts to schools and parks if new residences are considered.

More Information:

Contact Sophia Fisher with the [Department of Planning and Zoning](#), at 703-324-1349, TTY 711.

Winter: Freezing Pipes & Plumbing



Water freezing in your cold and hot water pipes can cause serious problems. While this freezing takes place, the pipe begins to swell and may burst. In most cases, the actual break doesn't appear until the water begins to thaw.

A little bit of planning can make for a dryer, happier winter. [Fairfax Water](#) encourages residents to take the following preventative actions to protect home plumbing:

- **Locate and mark the main water cutoff valve for your home.** This cutoff valve is usually found near where the waterline comes into your house. Damage from running water can be minimized if you can turn off this valve quickly.
- **Make sure the waterline to outside faucets is turned off and the line is drained.** Consider wrapping or insulating your water pipes, especially those pipes near outside walls, under the house or in the attic. Insulation supplies are available at local home improvement or hardware stores.

- **Eliminate drafts.** Check around the home for areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas and take measures to prevent the flow of cold air in these areas. Look in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated. A hot water supply line can freeze just as a cold water supply line can if water is not running through the pipe and the water temperature becomes cold.
- If a water pipe freezes, **never try to thaw it with an open flame or torch.** You can use a hair dryer or portable heater, but always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.
- If you will be away from your home, **keep the thermostat at a reasonable temperature** to make sure all areas with water pipes are kept above freezing.
- If you suspect you have a **frozen water meter**, call [Fairfax Water](#) for help. Service crews are available 24 hours a day and will respond as soon as possible.
 - Business hours: 703-698-5800, TTY 711.
 - After hours: 703-698-5613, TTY 711.
- If you are vacating your home because you have lost your heat source, locate and turn off your main water cutoff valve.
 - After the valve is turned off, open a faucet on each level of your home to allow for expansion should the undrained water freeze.
- If you are staying in your home or will be monitoring your home frequently, allow a faucet to drip cold water slowly. At a minimum, the dripping faucet should be the one that is the greatest distance from your main water cutoff valve.
 - Consider allowing a slow drip in areas that are least protected from the cold (basements, crawl spaces, attics and garages).

Getting Help:

If the pipe breaks, quickly shut off the water valve, if you haven't already done so. Then call a plumber. They have the know-how to correctly fix the break.

Should you call the fire department? Only if the water gets in or near electrical outlets or panels, or if the water threatens a pilot light or power to a water heater or furnace.

Road Snow Removal in Fairfax County

Winter is here and snow removal is on top of everyone's mind. The county receives complaints every year, but it is important to know Fairfax County does NOT remove snow from most roads. The Virginia Department of Transportation has that responsibility in nearly every Virginia county.

Northern Virginia roads are divided into hundreds of snow maps, which are updated yearly. Using VDOT's online snow plow tracker, you can check the status of your road and see what has been cleared. All VDOT plows and contract equipment have locators to track their position and progress.

[**View VDOT Plowing Map**](#)

Here are VDOT's road clearing priorities:

1. Interstates and most primary roads
2. Snow emergency routes and heavily trafficked roads
3. Other secondary roads and residential streets maintained by VDOT

Please [contact VDOT for additional information](#) (1-800-FOR ROAD (1-800-367-7623), TTY 711).

Private Streets:

If a street within a townhouse, condominium, or business/commercial complex is not posted with a state route number, it is a private street that is the responsibility of the homeowner/condominium association or property management company to clear. Please contact your association or the property manager for further information.

County Snow Removal:

The county does plow a few roads, but, again, VDOT and homeowner associations clear snow from most roads. Our snow removal efforts are first focused on a priority list of county locations such as police and fire stations, government centers, and mass transit sites, and then followed by other facilities such as libraries.

Snow Removal in Fairfax County

Who Does What



The Virginia Department of Transportation
is responsible for plowing public roads,
but not for sidewalks.

Private streets are the responsibility
of the homeowner/condominium
association.

Private Street



Residents and businesses are asked to
clear snow from sidewalks in front
of their property.



If you live in an apartment or condo,
check with your management company
for responsibilities and expectations.



**TAKE YOUR SNOW AND
SH_EVEL IT**

Snow Facts

Northern Virginia 2017-18

Arlington*, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties

*Arlington maintains own secondary roads.



Lane miles to plow
13,585

INTERSTATE: 727

PRIMARY: 1,736

SECONDARY: 11,046 (includes 16,000 subdivision streets)

Anti-icing

- A few days in advance
- If pavement is above 20 degrees
- If weather won't begin as rain
- Most effective first hour of storm

2,150 lane miles of interstates and major roads including bridges, ramps, and overpasses are treated with brine and/or liquid magnesium chloride.

DID YOU
KNOW?
Brine is a mix of
23% salt and
77% water.

Mobilization

We monitor the forecast closely and mobilize crews and resources.
Trucks report, load, and deploy:

- 12-18 hours before small event
- 18-24 hours large storm

If 2 or more inches are forecasted, residents may see trucks begin staging in neighborhoods.

24 Salt Domes

18 Area Headquarters

The dome at I-495 and Van Dorn, our largest, holds 33,000 tons of salt

ARLINGTON: 1
FAIRFAX: 9

LOUDOUN: 4
PRINCE WILLIAM: 4

Materials on Hand

SALT: 120,000 tons
BRINE: 250,000 gallons
SAND: 25,000 tons

4,500 Vehicles

97% OF FLEET IS CONTRACTED



Clearance goals after storm ends

HOW LONG FOR A PASSABLE
LANE ON ALL ROADS?
Crews start plowing at 2 inches.



2-4" OF SNOW: **24 hours**
4-6" OF SNOW: **48 hours**
6" + OF SNOW: **72+ hours**

Taking Care of Our Vulnerable Homeless Community This Winter



The long, cold winter nights are upon us.

And imagine you are spending the night sleeping outside, behind a store on Route 1, in the woods in Burke or in a car beside the parkway in Reston. For those experiencing homelessness in our county it is a frightening and potentially life-threatening reality.

To help ensure no one has to sleep outside during the winter months, a collaborative effort by the county, nonprofits, and faith communities created the Hypothermia Prevention Program more than a decade ago. Last winter, the program provided more than 1,000 people experiencing homelessness in our county with a warm, safe place to sleep and a healthy meal.

Call If You See Someone in Need:

If you see someone at night who is unsheltered and you think he or she could be at risk of [hypothermia](#), call the county's non-emergency (police) phone line at 703-

691-2131, TTY 711.

Why We Need a Hypothermia Prevention Program:

People can die from [hypothermia](#), a condition brought on when the body temperature drops below 95 degrees. Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion.

The county's Hypothermia Prevention Program is coordinated by the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, which contracts with [four nonprofits](#) to increase the number of available emergency shelter beds by hundreds each night throughout the winter, December to March.

This winter the nonprofits are working with 44 faith communities and coordinating 49 temporary shelter facilities to provide safe places to sleep indoors with sleeping bags or cots. Participating faith communities' members also provide meals, transportation and often extras such as clothing donations. The county's support services are also available at each site, including health and housing assistance.

During the freezing weather, the county also provides overnight shelter with a "no turn-away" policy at all of our [emergency homeless shelters](#).

Learn More about this Lifesaving Program:

Contact their Office to Prevent and End Homelessness and they will provide you with information on where the need is greatest or the nonprofit partner that is closest to where you live or work. Call 703-324-9492, TTY 711, or send an [email](#).

Did You Get Your Flu Shot Yet? Make it a Priority!



You can tell by the number of empty desks at work and school – flu season is here. There are signs everywhere reminding you to get a flu shot, so what's stopping you? No more excuses – make getting a flu shot your priority for today.

Anyone Can Get the Flu:

Anyone can get the flu, yes, even you. It can send a perfectly healthy person to the emergency room with a high fever and trouble breathing, or at least knock you off your feet for days or even weeks. For kids under two, older adults, pregnant women and people with chronic health conditions like asthma, heart disease or diabetes, the flu can be especially severe, even fatal.

Get Flu Protection:

Some protection is better than no protection. Flu vaccines don't come with a 100 percent guarantee that you won't get the flu, but it's still your best bet. Without a flu

shot, you'll be at greater risk for missing school or work. The [Center's for Disease Control and Prevention's](#) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices – a group of doctors and other immunization experts – recommends everyone six months old and older get a flu shot every year.

And despite what you may have heard, the flu vaccine cannot cause the flu. The vaccine is made with “inactivated” (killed) virus. It also takes a couple of weeks for the vaccine to take hold in your body. Some people may experience a mild reaction from their flu shot, but that isn't the same as having the flu.

It's also cheap and convenient. It's never been easier to get a flu shot, which can be found at most pharmacies, grocery stores, doctor offices and health clinics. And it may not even cost you anything. For the majority of people with health insurance, the flu shot is covered under preventative care. In Fairfax County, flu vaccine is available at all five [Health Department](#) clinics.

[Flu Shot Finder](#)

Wash Your Hands:

Washing hands is the most important and easiest action we can take to prevent getting sick and spreading illness. It may sounds simple, but keep these six steps in mind every time for best results:

1. Start with Soap and Warm Water
2. Make a Lather
3. Scrub Thoroughly for 20 Seconds
4. Scrub Palms, Back of Hands, Between Fingers, Under Nails
5. Rinse Well and Use Paper Towel to Shut Off Faucet
6. Dry Hands Completely

Cover Your Cough the Right Way:

Did you know that germs can live for two hours or longer on many surfaces? When you cough or sneeze, droplets get released into the air. These droplets contain germs, including those germs that can make others sick.

If you use your hands to cover your coughs and sneezes, you can spread germs to everything you touch, such as door knobs, keyboards, elevator buttons, telephones, and even food. Covering coughs and sneezes the right way can protect others from getting sick.

Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. Or use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, then discard the tissue in the trash.

Recycle Cooking Oil



If you are using large amounts of cooking oil for your holiday meals this season, you may want to bring your used oil for conversion into biofuel. Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Program has been successfully collecting used cooking oil from residents since 2014. Last season, the program collected 330 gallons in November and 700 gallons in December. Accepted cooking oils include vegetable, peanut, canola, olive, and deep fryer oils. Pure cooking oils should be delivered in original containers when possible, or in clean, clearly-labeled containers.

The county accepts cooking oil daily at the [I-95 landfill complex](#) from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the [I-66 transfer station](#) from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The I-66 Transfer Station is located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA. The I-95 Landfill Complex is located at 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton, VA.

Volunteer Opportunity in Sully



Help ONC Deliver Holiday Presents

Our Neighbor's Child (ONC) is a non-profit organization that provides holiday gifts for families in need in western Fairfax County. Delivery day volunteers are greatly

needed this **Sunday, December 17 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** You can sign up at www.ourneighborschild.org.

Animal Shelter Adoption Event

Help a shelter pet get a 'Home for the Pawlidays' during this special adoption event! What better way to celebrate the holidays and the new year by adding a new pet to your family? ALL adoptions are half-off, thanks to the [Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter!](#)

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is located at **4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030**. Their hours are Tuesday-Friday from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You can view all available animals [online](#).



Animal Shelter Corner



Meet Georgie!

Age: 4y 1m

Gender: Male

Color: Beige

Spayed/Neutered: Yes

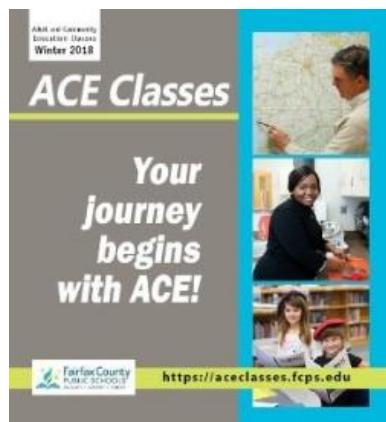
Size: Small

HERO ADOPTER NEEDED!! For Georgie, the cutest, friendliest, most active little paralyzed pupper. That's right, little Georgie's back half is paralyzed. He absolutely LOVES people and is the sweetest little dude. And he's faster than

you'd think! He can really move quickly! The Animal Shelter sent Georgie to foster for a bit, and his foster mom says that he is a good little guy. He's not noisy (except when he's saying 'hi hi hi hi hi' to people who come in the house) and he loves to cuddle. He sleeps soundly through the night and likes to be carried around. Since Georgie is paralyzed, he can use some help expressing his bladder. He will go on his own, too, but he can't really control that so he may just go whenever and wherever. It would be ideal if whoever adopts him gets into a routine of taking him outside to express his bladder there, to make things easier. Georgie can get around without his wheels, but he does have a set of wheels he can wear if he's going for a longer stroll. And also, thanks to the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, he has TEN swim therapy sessions that his adopter can use!!

If you have questions about Georgie or want to meet him, you can email the Animal Shelter at animalshelter@fairfaxcounty.gov!

Register Now for Winter 2018 Adult & Community Education Classes



Register now for winter 2018 Adult and Community Education (ACE) classes. ACE offers a wide variety of programs for the community ranging from career classes to enrichment for both adults and K-12 students. Upcoming courses include: Quality Kids' Lunches, Cyber Security for Small Business, Home Inspector Prelicensing, German Desserts, and more! Winter course offerings may be viewed at <https://aceclasses.fcps.edu>, and registration may be completed online, by phone, by mail, or in person.

The course catalog, *ACE Classes*, is currently being mailed to Fairfax County residents and is also available at the Sully Governmental Center (4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151), Fairfax County public libraries, and at the Plum Center in Springfield. Explore a new career, discover a new hobby, and connect with your community...your journey begins with ACE!