

# A message from Kathy Smith

I hope you and your family have a happy and safe Thanksgiving! All Fairfax County government offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29, 2019 in honor of the Thanksgiving Day holiday. My office will reopen on Monday, December 2, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

The Sully Holiday Food Drive received over 330 lbs. of food to help Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. These donations will go to individuals and families in need this holiday season. I am thankful to live in such a generous community!

Sincerely,

## **Reminders!**

#### **Fairfax Connector Reston-Herndon Bus Service Review:**

The <u>Fairfax County Department of Transportation</u> (FCDOT) needs public input on alternatives developed to provide enhanced Fairfax Connector bus service in the Reston and Herndon areas, including connections to the future <u>Metrorail Silver Line Phase 2 stations</u> in Herndon and Reston.

Residents are encouraged to provide input on the service alternatives by filling out an <u>online survey</u>. **The survey deadline has been extended to December 27, 2019.** Comments can also be mailed to: Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033. For more information, <u>click here</u>.

#### 2nd Installment 2019 Real Estate Taxes Due on Thursday, December 5, 2019:

The 2nd installment 2019 real estate tax payment is due on Thursday, December 5, 2019. There are many ways to pay including:

- Online: For real estate taxes, you will need this year's stub number from your real estate tax bill. A third-party processing fee is assessed for credit/debit card payments. There is no charge for e-check payments.
- **By Phone:** If you are using VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express, call 703-222-6740 (TTY 711) (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Third-party service fees apply.
- **By Mail:** Make checks payable to "County of Fairfax." Use the envelope provided with your bill or mail to: Department of Tax Administration, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 223, Fairfax, VA 22035. **Do NOT send cash.** Payment must be postmarked on or before the due date to be considered on time
- In Person: Pay in-person at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 223, Fairfax, VA 22035). Weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; open until 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Pay by check, cash, credit or debit card. For credit/debit card payments, third-party service fees will apply.

For more information about real estate taxes, click here or call 703-222-8234.

#### <u>Transportation Town Hall with Delegate Delaney & Supervisor Smith:</u>

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Sully Governmental Center (4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151) in the

**Community Rooms** 

Join Delegate Karrie K. Delaney and Supervisor Kathy Smith on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Sully Governmental Center for their joint transportation town hall. Representatives from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT), EMP (VDOT's I-66 partner), and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) will be in attendance to answer your transportation questions.

#### DMV 2 Go at the Sully Governmental Center:

Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2019

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Sully Governmental Center (4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151) in the

parking lot

The handicapped accessible full service office-on-wheels is equipped to process all DMV transactions. **Customers visiting DMV 2 Go are served on a first come, first served basis.** Appointments are not available.

### **Child Care Provider Resource Fair**



**Need Child Care?** 

Want to Be a Provider?

# Find out more!

**Child Care Provider Resource Fair** 

Saturday, December 7, 2019 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Centre Ridge Elementary School 14400 New Braddock Road, Centreville, VA 20121

#### Learn about:

- Child care options and speak with child care providers.
- How to get started with your own child care business.
- Other resources from county, nonprofit, school and faith-based organizations to meet your family needs.

#### Free Admission!

For additional information contact Paul Woods at 703-324-5347.







Fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Where a TTY number is not indicated, use 711/Virginia Relay. Reasonable accommodations made upon request; call 703-324-4600.

A Fairfax County, Virginia publication. 11/2019



**December Events at Chantilly Regional Library** 



#### **Social Security - Maximizing Your Retirement Benefits**

Thursday, December 5, 2019

7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Join us for this seminar that will cover the different strategies that maximize your Social Security benefits. We will also identify the pitfalls to avoid that can permanently reduce your benefits for life. A Q&A session will follow. Ages: Adults.

#### **Holiday Desserts with Chef Cal**

Saturday, December 14, 2019

2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Join Chef Cal to learn how to make scrumptious holiday desserts that will wow family and friends alike. Ages: Adults. Registration opens at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 30, 2019.

#### **Holiday Karaoke**

Monday, December 23, 2019

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Let it snow, let it snow! Sing your heart out to one of your favorite winter or holiday songs with family and friends. All ages.

#### **Noon Years Eve Party!**

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Ring in the "Noon" year with the library! There will be family-friendly games, activities, and of course a countdown to noon. All ages.

The <u>Chantilly Regional Library</u> is located at 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, VA 20151. For more information about these events contact the library by <u>email</u>, or call 703-502-3883, TTY 711.

### December Events at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park



#### **Feeding Day**

Saturday, December 7, 2019 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Join a naturalist and youth volunteers as we demonstrate how we feed our site display animals. Make a bird feeder to take home and use. Search for worms and insects and assist in serving dinner. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages: 4 to 13. Cost: \$8 per person.

#### **Votes for Women**

Saturday, December 14, 2019 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

On the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment, walk around Walney and learn about the women's suffrage movement and the struggle for U.S. women's right to vote. Ages: 12 and older. Cost: \$6 per person.

#### **Caroling Wagon Ride & Campfire**

Saturday, December 14, 2019 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Join us in song and exploration on a wagon ride. Warm up with s'mores at the campfire. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Ages: 4 and older. Cost: \$8 per person.

#### **Holidays at Walney Farm**

Saturday, December 21, 2019 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate the winter holidays with the Machen family at Walney Farm. Learn about the gifts and foods of an 1850 farm, create your own historic holiday ornament, take a wagon ride along the trails and enjoy hot apple cider and treats around a campfire. Ages: 4 and older. Cost: \$10 per person.

<u>Ellanor C. Lawrence Park</u> is located at 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly, VA 20151. For more information about these events contact the park by <u>email</u> or call 703-631-0013, TTY 711.

# Santa's Ride 2019



Presented by the Fairfax County Police Motor Squad with the support of: Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, Falls Church Sheriff's Office, Vienna Police Department, Virginia State Police, Fairfax City Police Department, and the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority Police.

Donate NEW, unwrapped toys, games, books, and gifts to be distributed to children at Fairfax Hospital, Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center, and to the children in the community who might not otherwise have a cheerful holiday season!

Bring your items to any Fairfax County Police Station, including the **Sully District Station (4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151)**; any of the following schools: Groveton ES, **Poplar Tree ES (13440 Melville Lane, Chantilly, VA 20151)**, Springfield Estates ES, Terraset ES, West Springfield ES, St. Ambrose School, Spring Hill ES, Holy Spirit School, and Pender School; the Lobby of the Pennino and Herrity Office Buildings; or the Government Center, **no later than 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 9, 2019.** 

# NOVA Relief Center: 2019 Blanket & Coat Drive for Refugees



Since 2011, the Syrian civil war has left over 400,000 people dead. Syrians have been trying to escape the tumult at home, with over 6 million people displaced within Syria and another 5 million seeking safe haven as refugees.

One of the biggest challenges these refugees face is harsh winter conditions, which make the dire situation even worse. Northern Virginia leaders and communities have united since 2013 to collect and distribute blankets, coats, and winter clothing for Syrian and other refugees abroad.

This year, NOVA Relief Center is accepting donations from November 23 to December 9, 2019 to distribute to three camps in Jordan: Mafraq, Jerash, and Irbid. You can help make this event a success by donating gently used blankets and coats.

#### There are several drop-off locations in the Sully District, including:

- Sully District Governmental Center (4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151)
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (14150 Upper Ridge Drive, Centreville, VA 20121); Sundays only
- Navy Elementary School (3500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22033)
- Westfield High School (4700 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151)

For more information visit: <a href="https://novareliefcenter.org/">https://novareliefcenter.org/</a>.

# Victim Services' Holiday Gift Card Drive



Now through Friday, December 13, 2019, the Fairfax County Police Department Victim Services Division are collecting gift cards to benefit children on their current caseload. Gift cards will allow parents to be active participants in purchasing gifts for each child and practical needed items that they would normally go without. Gift cards can be mailed to or dropped off at: ATTN: Saly Fayez, Director; FCPD - Victim Services Division; 12099 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035.

#### **Suggested Gift Cards:**

- Target
- Walmart
- Kohl's
- Giant
- Safeway
- Local restaurants
- TJ Maxx
- Movie theaters
- Old Navy
- Amazon

In 2019, they worked over 325 cases involving children victims and witnesses of domestic/ sexual violence and homicide. Through their gift card drive, they are able to provide a way to celebrate the holiday season for these brave children. Your generous donation of gift cards will offer families that they have worked with this past year the opportunity to bring a smile to the faces of their children who have had a tough road due to the violence they have witnessed or been a victim of themselves.

For more information, contact Saly Fayez at 703-246-2465 or send an email to saly.fayez@fairfaxcounty.gov.

# Park Authority Seeking Input on Countywide Dog Park Study



The Fairfax County Park Authority is conducting an in-depth study of Off-Leash Dog Areas (i.e. dog parks) in Fairfax County. The community is asked to share its insights through the project's public survey. **The survey will be open through December 15, 2019** and is available on the project's website at Dog Park Study.

The purpose of the study is to assess current and future needs and priorities for dog parks throughout the county.

Based on community input, spatial analysis, and a review of national trends in dog park planning, the Park Authority will adopt strategies for long-term planning, development, and management of dog parks. The areas of evaluation of this study include county-wide needs and accessibility, design and site placement guidelines, maintenance and operations, rules and etiquette, and sponsorship and volunteer groups.

Comments on the study will be received by the Park Authority until December 15, 2019. Written comments should be directed to Project Manager Adam Wynn, Planning & Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 406, Fairfax, VA 22035. Email comments may be sent to: <a href="mailto:Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov">Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>.

# Library Collects Donations in December for Food for Fines Program



A <u>recent Fairfax County study</u> revealed 8.4 percent of students reported going hungry in the past month due to a lack of food in the home, a factor <u>which impacts a child's ability to learn</u>.

With the library's commitment to literacy and learning, it made perfect sense to partner with Food for Others, a non-profit food pantry and food rescue operation, during the month of December to serve Fairfax County families living with food insecurity.

Anyone, including customers without fines and community members without library cards, can support their neighbors by bringing canned goods or other non-perishable items to their nearest library branch. Donations can also reduce or eliminate fines accrued on an individual's library card account. Each item donated will erase \$1 from a patron's overdue fines up to a maximum of \$15 per account.

Non-perishable food items most needed include: canned meats and tuna, macaroni and cheese, cereal, peanut butter, stew and chili (canned), pasta and rice, pasta sauce, canned fruit, beans, fruit juice, and vegetable oil. This year non-food items such as shampoo, deodorant, diapers, paper towels, and toilet paper are also welcome.

For more information about the Food for Fines program, <u>click here</u>.

# **Video: Fairfax County Gang Prevention**



Fairfax County continues to be one of the safest jurisdictions in the country, but that does not mean our area is free of gang activity. According to our Police Department's 2018 annual report, 125 arrests were made that year in 247 gang-related crimes.

Parents, family members, and entire communities are the number one defense against a child becoming part of a gang or choosing to participate in gang-like activities.

Watch the video above to learn about gangs and how you can help keep our county safe. For more information on gang prevention, <u>click here</u>.

## The Green Column



Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention - Identify and Prevent It

Water pollution is the impairment of the beneficial uses of water. Water quality can be adversely affected by direct and indirect sources. Direct sources are fairly obvious and include such practices as dumping waste and hazardous pollutants into streams. Indirect sources are called nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. Stormwater runoff, which may contain fertilizers and pesticides, soil lost from construction sites, and oil residue washed off streets, is NPS pollution. This type of pollution is much more difficult to pinpoint and control.

#### What can citizens do to reduce nonpoint source pollution?:

- Limit use of pesticides and fertilizer, and use them at appropriate times of the year in recommended amounts.
- Prevent property erosion by covering bare soil with vegetation and mulch.
- Participate in a stream cleanup program.
- Remove obstructions from stream channels and revegetate stream banks.
- Do not mow all the way to the edge of a lake or pond. Leave a buffer of tall grasses or shrubs to filter pollutants.
- Landscape yards to minimize rainwater runoff.
- Preserve neighborhood trees that help minimize the damage caused by surface runoff.
- Place retaining walls or diversions on steeply sloping ground to reduce the rate of water flow and erosion.
- Make sure septic tanks work properly.
- Dispose of litter in garbage cans or in recycling bins.
- Compost yard and garden waste.
- Pick up pet waste and bag it with regular household trash or flush it in the toilet.
- And, never ever intentionally dump anything into a storm drain!

To read the full article, <u>click here</u>.

## **Animal Shelter Corner**



# **Meet Charlie!**

Gorgeous and extra fluffy Charlie was adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter when he was a kitten, but was recently returned when a family member developed allergies, plus Charlie was becoming overwhelmed with the kids in the home. He would probably be happier with older kids (high school age, perhaps) or no kids. His previous family said that once the kids would go to sleep, Charlie became quite affectionate, and is a bedtime snuggler who loves laying by his people. With strangers he can be a little nervous, but that's ok. He is a cat. He was super scared and hissy when he first arrived at the shelter, and was quite unhappy in a cat condo, so they moved him to a staff person's office. After just one day, he is SO much happier!! He's exploring the office, asking to be petted, and really just overall a more happy guy. If you've got the type of home that Charlie would enjoy, come on in and meet him! He is even more handsome and fluffy in real life.

For more information about Charlie, click the link above or contact the shelter at 703-830-1100 or send an email to <a href="mailto:AnimalShelter@fairfaxcounty.gov">AnimalShelter@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>.