

News from...

SUPERVISOR PENNY GROSS



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Mason District Home - Fairfax
County, Virginia

www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Welcome to the Mason District homepage! It is designed for easy use, and I hope you will find the information both helpful and timely.

November 2016

A few items of information for you or your association newsletter:

The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny – As the season transitions from warmth to breezy and cool, it's time to think about other transitions, too. Standard time returns at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 6, so please remember to set your clocks back an hour before you retire for the evening. The time switch also is a good reminder to change the batteries in your smoke alarm(s). And the Fairfax County Fire Department reminds us to replace smoke alarms that are older than 10 years. Doesn't your family deserve a new smoke alarm?

More fire safety tips include checking your fireplace flue to ensure that it will operate properly for those family evenings around a crackling fire. Put fireplace ashes in a closed metal container and place away from your home or garage. Ashes may stay hot for a long time, and can reignite if not handled correctly. Candle usage increases during the holidays, too, so please be sure that your decorative candles are placed in safe candleholders, away from pets, window treatments, and any flammable materials. Never, ever, leave a burning candle unattended. It doesn't take

much for a flame to get out of control. Most fires are preventable; let's not lose one more Mason District residence to fire. More fire safety tips may be found on line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/educate/.

Educational Topics - Fairfax County, Virginia

www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Virginia.gov - The Official Commonwealth of Virginia Web site; USA.gov - The U.S. Government's Official Web Portal

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find information about the November 8 general election, as well as ways to vote absentee in person at the Mason District Governmental Center. In addition to the presidential and congressional elections, there are three county bond referenda, the meals tax question, and two state constitutional amendments for your consideration. Explanations about all ballot questions may be found on the League of Women Voters website, www.lwv-fairfax.org.

Shortly after Election Day, our nation will celebrate Veterans Day on Friday, November 11. We thank our veterans – from World War II, the Korean War, and many more recent actions that placed our service members in danger. Join American Legion Post 1976 for a brief Veterans Day observance at the cannon at Columbia Pike and Backlick Road at 11 a.m. on November 11.

Finally, Happy Thanksgiving on November 24! I hope you will have a wonderful day with your family and loved ones to gather and reflect on the bounty we enjoy in America, and the democracy that is celebrated and preserved by every election.

Recycling Drop-off Center to Close Permanently on November 1 – The recycling drop-off center at the Virginia ABC store, located at 7200 Little River Turnpike in Annandale, will close permanently on November 1, 2016. The need for drop-off centers has dwindled because of the county-wide availability of recyclables collection at residents' homes. Residents and business owners who need to recycle materials beyond what is collected at the curb can take their recyclables to the Fairfax County transfer station, located at 4816 West Ox Road in Fairfax (across from Costco). Recyclables delivered to the transfer station are accepted at no charge; household waste delivered in bags to the transfer station also can be disposed at a nominal fee. More information about waste management in Fairfax County is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling/, or call the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program at 703-324-5230, TTY 711.

In-Person Absentee Voting Continues at the Office of Elections and Seven Satellite Locations –

In-Person Absentee Voting continues at the **Fairfax County Government Center**, 12000 Government Center Parkway, **Conference Rooms 2/3** in Fairfax.

- **Expanded in-person absentee voting hours** at the Office of Elections are available weekdays through **November 4**, from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.** On **Saturdays, October 29 and November 5**, in-person absentee voting is open from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
- In-Person Absentee Voting at Seven **Satellite Locations**, including the Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, continues weekdays until **November 4**, from **2 - 8 p.m.**, and on **Saturdays, October 29 and November 5** from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
- **Last Day to Apply for an Absentee Ballot by Mail, Fax, E-mail, or Online: November 1 at 5 p.m.**
- **Last Day to Vote Absentee In-Person: November 5, 2016.**
- **For Inclusion in the Election, Absentee Ballots must be returned to the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 8, 2016.**

Additional information about absentee voting for the **November 8, 2016** election is available online at

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm, by calling the Office of Elections at 703-222-0776; TTY 711, or e-mail at voting@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Election Day is November 8, 2016 – Remember to vote on Election Day at your regular polling place. **Please Note:** There is no voting at the Mason District Governmental Center on Election Day. **You must vote at your regular polling place.** Your voter information card lists the name and address of your voting location (polling place). Also, the **Virginia State Board of Elections Web site has an on-line form, "Where do I vote?"** <https://voterinfo.sbe.virginia.gov/PublicSite/Public/FT2/PublicPollingPlace.aspx>, to help you find your polling place and direct links to your representatives, based on the address you submit. For more information, call the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-222-0776 (TTY 711). Information is also available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections. Please remember to bring a photo ID.

Polling Information for Poe Precinct Voters – Because of ongoing renovations, the **November 8, 2016** general election voting for the **Poe Precinct** will be held in the **cafeteria of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology**, 6560 Braddock Road in the Alexandria portion of Fairfax County. Voters may enter via Door #3, which is located in the front of the building, directly opposite the entrance driveway. Parking will be available in the staff lot immediately to the left of the entrance driveway. Parking also will be available on the south side of the building, and at the visitor lot in front of the main entrance. For more information about this precinct location, or other election information, contact the Office of Elections at 703-222-0776; TTY 711, or e-mail at voting@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Annandale United Methodist Church (AUMC) Annual Craft Bazaar Set for November 5 – On **Saturday, November 5**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., AUMC, located at 6935 Columbia Pike, will host its annual Craft Bazaar. If you would like to sell your crafts or art, please send an e-mail Cyra Doty at radu94@aol.com to receive a copy of the registration form and guidelines. Volunteers are welcome to help set up on **Friday, November 4**, and assist on **Saturday, November 5**. For more information about this and other upcoming events,

visit www.annandale-umc.org/home, send an e-mail to office@annandale-umc.org, or call 703-256-8330.

St. Alban's Christmas Bazaar Set for November 12 – On **Saturday, November 12** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike in Annandale, will host its popular Christmas Bazaar, featuring unique items, baked goods, books, art, jewelry and entertainment for the whole family. Enjoy caroling by the church choir, face painting, children of all ages can have their picture taken with Santa, drawings for door prizes, and the kitchen will be open for breakfast and lunch. For more information, call the church office at 703-256-2966.

Fall 2016 Culmore Cleanup – Every year a fall cleanup of the Culmore area in Falls Church is organized. The objective of the cleanup is simple - to rid the streets of litter and bring awareness to keeping the community clean. The Fall 2016 Culmore Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, November 19**, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive in Falls Church. Join your friends in cleaning our Culmore neighborhood. Help out by cleaning up, picking up trash on cleanup day, and keeping our community clean all year long. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/culmorecleanupday or send an e-mail to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Volunteers Needed for DFS VITA Program – The Fairfax County Department of Family Services (DFS) coordinates a regional, volunteer-run Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, which provides free tax assistance to individuals and families with low-income. Volunteers are needed from late January to April 2017 for three to five hours, once or twice a week. Multiple locations are available throughout Northern Virginia. Tax preparers and screeners should have experience preparing a tax return, but no experience is necessary for interpreters and greeters. Classroom and/or online training available from December 2016 through January 2017, and all tax preparers must pass an IRS certification test. For more information about the VITA program, or to register as a volunteer, please visit www.nvacash.org, or call Tatyana Chambers, volunteer coordinator, at 703-533-5702.

Save the Date: Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering – Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross invites you to Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering on **Monday, December 12, 7 p.m.** at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Refreshments, musical entertainment, and door prizes kick off this annual holiday event.

Mason Matters! The Television Show – The November edition of *Mason Matters!*, the television show that brings you news and information about our Mason District community, hosted by Supervisor Penny Gross, features Vickie McEntire Anglin, land surveyor, and Matthias Strecker, senior survey analyst/coordinator, both with the Fairfax County Land Survey Branch of the Utilities Design and Construction Division of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. In the early 1600s, Virginia had wide open spaces that were inhabited by Native Americans, who later were joined by English and Spanish explorers. The English established colonies in large land grants to the elite. Today, land is subdivided into parcels that

delineate ownership, whether there are structures or not. Metes and bounds bring order to what centuries ago was open wilderness. So how is this task accomplished, and what does this entail? *Mason Matters!* airs on Cable Channel 16 every **Thursday at 7 p.m.**, and every **Friday and Sunday at 6:30 p.m.**, and daily on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason.

The Quick 411 – Can electronics and appliances, like my TV and computer, drain electricity even when they're turned off, but still plugged in? Yes. Here are some simple steps to save energy and money:

- **Unplug your electronics:** Consider unplugging your electronics if you're not using them.
- **Use power strips:** You can turn off multiple electronics at once with just one switch. Better yet, purchase a smart power strip to turn electronics off automatically.
- **Put your devices to sleep when stepping away for a while:** Put your computer or video game into sleep mode or turn it off if you have to step away for a while. This alone can save more than \$100 a year in many cases.
- **Buy ENERGY STAR®-labeled electronics:** These electronics and appliances use less power in general, including when turned off, than other comparable devices.

For more information and saving tips, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy/energyactionfairfax