

News from...

SUPERVISOR PENNY GROSS



MASON DISTRICT GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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April 2017

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

The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny – Now that Spring finally has decided to stay, activities in Mason District also are ramping up. In addition to your local civic and homeowner association events, several community and volunteer opportunities are contained in this newsletter. Fairfax County has an enviable quality of life, sustained in many ways by terrific volunteers who contribute to our community. April is National Volunteer Month, and Fairfax County volunteers contribute more than 500,000 volunteer hours, valued at more than \$10 million, every year. This year's Community Champion for Mason District is Gail Coleman, immediate past president of the Annandale Christian Community for Action, familiarly known as ACCA. Gail provides quiet, thoughtful leadership for the all-volunteer group, which has helped address social service needs in our community for 50 years this year. Gail and many other county volunteers will be honored at the annual **Volunteer Fairfax** awards breakfast on **April 21**. Follow Gail's example – become a volunteer in our community!

The FY2018 county budget process continues this month, as the Board of Supervisors conducts **public hearings** about the budget on **April 4, 5, and 6**. **Budget mark-up** is scheduled for **April 25**, and **final adoption** will be **May 2**. All of these meetings will be televised on Channel 16; specific information is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb. Happy Spring!

Department of Management and Budget - Fairfax County,
Virginia

www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Tell the Budget Office what additional information you would like posted on this page to help you better understand the budget

AARP Tax-Aide Program Concluding a Successful Season – Free tax assistance by AARP volunteers is available until **Tuesday, April 18, 2017**, at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. AARP volunteers provide walk-in service on **Mondays and Thursdays from 1 to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.; Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.** All returns are filed electronically. Because Emancipation Day (April 16) is a holiday in the District of Columbia and will be observed on **Monday, April 17**, the deadline for federal taxes this year is **Tuesday, April 18**. File Virginia taxes before the deadline on **Monday, May 1**. Remember to bring documents, such as last year's tax return, a photo ID, and Social Security cards for taxpayers and all dependents. Residents with illnesses or infirmities, which confine them to their homes, may schedule appointments with AARP for tax preparation services by calling 703-594-6576. For more information about AARP Tax-Aide, visit www.aarp.org/money/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.

Community Meeting to Discuss a Comprehensive Plan Amendment Proposed for 6060 Arlington Boulevard in Falls Church – You are invited to attend a community meeting to discuss a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the property located at 6060 Arlington Boulevard in Falls Church, on **Monday, April 3, 2017** at 7 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. The subject property is 3.64 acres and currently contains a medical office building. The proposed Plan Amendment recommends residential use at a density up to 12 dwelling units per acre. This change could result in approximately 43 townhomes, if a rezoning of the property subsequently is approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Plan Amendment can be viewed online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/fairfaxforward/pa/6060arlingtonblvd. If you are unable to attend the community meeting, but have questions or would like more information, contact Katrina Newton in the Planning Division at katrina.newton@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-1380.

Culmore Multicultural Day 2017 – "**Building a Strong Community**," is this year's theme for Culmore Multicultural Day, which will be held on **Saturday, April 22, 2017**, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., in the parking lot of the Woodrow Wilson Library. Originally started more than 10 years ago by the global community of the Bailey's Crossroads/Culmore area, this popular annual event now attracts hundreds of families from all over the local area. Enjoy free refreshments, food and entertainment, as well as a variety of activities, including a soccer skill challenge, mini soccer games, public safety education, local government and non-profit resource kiosks, folkloric dancing, live music, animal exhibits, face painting, and more. For more information, call 703-324-8514; TTY 711, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/culmore-day/.

Fairfax Animal Shelter Hosts Low-Cost Rabies Clinic for Pets in Annandale – The Fairfax County Animal Shelter and Pender Veterinary Clinic, in partnership with the Office of Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and the Mason District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department, will host a low-cost rabies clinic on **Sunday, April 23**, 12 to 2 p.m., for dogs, cats and ferrets, in the Main Community Room of the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507

Columbia Pike in Annandale. All dogs **must** be on leashes, and cats and ferrets **must** be in carriers. Vaccination cost is \$15 per pet. Fairfax County 2017 dog licenses will be sold separately and cost \$10. Cash and checks **only** will be accepted for payment at the clinic. For more information, call 703-830-1100, or visit the Fairfax County Animal Services Division Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal.

Spring 2017 Culmore Cleanup – The spring 2017 Culmore Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 29**, 9 a.m. to Noon. Help out by cleaning up, picking up trash on cleanup day, and keeping our community clean all year long. For more information please visit Culmore Cleanup Day on Facebook, www.facebook.com/culmorecleanupday. You also may contact Supervisor Gross' office at 703-256-7717, or e-mail: mason@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Cleanout Medicine Cabinets of Unused and Expired Prescriptions on National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day – On **Saturday, April 29, 2017**, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., the Fairfax County Police Department, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration Diversion Control Division, will take back unused and expired medications for proper disposal. Stations serving Mason District include: **Mason District Station**, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale; **Franconia District Station**, 6121 Franconia Road in Alexandria; and **West Springfield District Station**, 6140 Rolling Road in Springfield. **Only prescriptions in liquid or pill form may be dropped off. No needles or pressurized canisters will be accepted.** Disposal is free, safe, convenient, and confidential. Information about year-round proper disposal of medications is available on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/dontflush, or by calling the Health Department at 703-246-2411; TTY 711. For more information about the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, visit www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback.

Youth Re-Imagining Community – The Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services and the Mason District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department, are hosting a community dialogue, "Youth Re-Imagining Community," on **Wednesday, May 3, 2017**, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., at the Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center, located at 3159 Row Street in Falls Church. The community dialogue will feature a pop-up exhibit created by local high school students. For more information, and to RSVP, contact Brittany Burns at 703-533-5701; TTY 711.

Gang Activity and Prevention – Gang activity has been rising across the Washington, D.C., region lately. Our police school resource officers watch for signs of gang activity and gang recruitment in our schools, and we need everyone's support to keep this dangerous problem at bay: parents/guardians, police, schools, health and human services providers, the court system and others. Gang activity is the primary focus for the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, as well as our Police Department, which has a gang investigations unit that examines all gang-associated crime. It's important to note that according to police, gangs are actively and successfully recruiting new members, especially in middle school. There are a variety of resources available about gang prevention:

- To report suspected gang activity in Fairfax County call 703-691-2131, TTY 711, or in an emergency call/text 911.

- To report information regarding gang-related crime to the **Northern Virginia Gang Task Force call 1-866-NO-GANGS (1-866-664-2647)**.
- If you or someone needs help, call 703-GET-HELP (703-438-4357), the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force resource information line.

For additional information about gang activity, prevention, the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force, and more, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gangprevention and www.preventgangsnova.org.

Lincolnia Planning District Study – Second Phase – A current Planning Study of the Lincolnia area has entered its second phase, which will review proposed changes to Comprehensive Plan guidance (Plan Amendment 2013-I-L1) for the **Lincolnia Planning District**. A community task force is conducting a series of public meetings, extending into late spring. Information about the study, and the meeting schedule, can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia. Subscribe to the Lincolnia Planning District Study by e-mail at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia/listservsubscribe.htm. Questions may be directed to Faheem Darab, senior planner, at faheem.darab@fairfaxcounty.gov or by calling 703-324-1351.

2016 Demographics Report – Fairfax County's latest annual demographics report is now available with a wide range of information about our diversity, employment, education, and future projections. Fairfax County is a diverse and thriving urban county. As the most populous jurisdiction in both Virginia and the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, the county's population exceeds that of eight states and the District of Columbia. Demographics and data about Fairfax County, including the 2016 Demographics Report, can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/about/data.

Art Show and Reception at Green Spring Gardens – Come to Green Spring Gardens and see the watercolor paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists at the Horticulture Center and Historic House from **April 18 – June 18, 2017**. On **Sunday, April 23, 2017**, meet some of the artists at a free reception, and enjoy light refreshments. For more information, call 703-642-5173, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring. Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria.

Mason Matters! The Television Show – No matter who you are, your age or where you live, you are a daily consumer of something! Buying food, a home, car, a television, choosing a contractor, or disputing a bill, being a consumer comes with all sorts of perks and headaches, so being an informed consumer is key to making the wisest choices and protecting yourself. Here in Fairfax County, help is available to navigate consumer concerns. Fairfax County's Consumer Affairs Branch of the Department of Cable and Consumer Services investigates and mediates consumer complaints, tenant-landlord disputes, and cable television issues. The **April** edition of ***Mason Matters!***, the television show that brings you news and information about our Mason District community, hosted by Supervisor Penny Gross, features Consumer Specialists Michelle Thompson and Wil Slaughter of Fairfax County's Consumer Affairs Branch, who discuss consumer services. ***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.

Local History on YouTube! – Local Historian, Author, and Producer Naomi SoCal Zeavin has her own page on YouTube, *History Speaks*. Ms. Zeavin served on Fairfax County's History Commission for more than 23 years, and now invites you to watch all her videos. Learn a little history, ranging in exciting historical topics, at www.youtube.com/user/zeavin1.

Mason News and Updates – To receive news and updates about Fairfax County services and events in Mason District, can send an e-mail to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov to subscribe. If you wish to unsubscribe, send an e-mail and include unsubscribe in the subject line to remove your e-mail address from the subscription list.

The Quick 411 – My family just got a dog. Can Fairfax County offer some tips for responsible dog ownership? Yes. It's always dog season in Fairfax County! With more than 87,000 registered pups, many of us love our dogs (or at least like our neighbor's dog). Of course, there are some people who may not care for excessive barking or dog waste that's not picked up, too, so **it's important to be a responsible owner**. Here is a simple list of ways to be a responsible dog owner in our county:

1.) Identify Your Pet – Make sure your dog wears a collar with a current license and ID tag and has a microchip with up-to-date information.

2.) Vaccinate Your Dog – Proof of a valid rabies vaccine is required for licensing your dog in Fairfax County. Check with your vet to determine what other vaccines are most appropriate for your dog.

3.) Get Your Dog Licensed – All dogs four months and older must have a [license which is renewed annually](#).

4.) Spay or Neuter Your Pet – Each year, three to four million homeless pets are euthanized in the United States. By spaying or neutering, you are doing your part to reduce pet overpopulation. Dogs that have this routine surgery tend to have longer, healthier lives and are less likely to roam.

5.) Enroll Your Dog in a Training or Obedience Class – Positive training will allow you to control your dog's behavior safely and provides a terrific opportunity to enhance the bond you share with your dog. Training builds communication, understanding and mutual respect. The Park Authority offers basic and advanced obedience classes. Register by visiting [Parktakes Online](#).

6.) Keep Your Dog Physically Fit – Up to 45 percent of pets in the United States are overweight or obese. To keep your dog happy and healthy, make sure you exercise your dog every day. Twice daily walks are enough for some dogs while others benefit from the additional exercise, play time and socialization they get from regular visits to a dog park.

7.) Obey Leash Laws – In Fairfax County, dogs are required to be on a leash at all times in public areas unless they're in a [designated off-leash area](#).

8.) Clean Up After Your Dog – Pick up dog waste and dispose of it in a public trash can or at home. Dog waste is not only unsightly, but it pollutes groundwater and is harmful to wildlife.

9.) Protect Your Dog From the Elements – If the temperature outside is too cold or hot for you, it is also too cold or hot for your pet. Pets should be kept indoors and never leave your pet in a car when the outside temperature is above 70 degrees.

10.) Give Your Dog Companionship – Dogs left alone for long hours are more likely to exhibit undesirable behaviors including aggression and separation anxiety. If you are away from your home long hours, consider hiring a dog walker or getting a companion for your pet. The [Animal Shelter](#) has lots of loving pets waiting to meet you!