

*News from...*

## SUPERVISOR PENNY GROSS



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**August 2017**

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

**The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny** – August may be vacation time for many, but Fairfax County services are ongoing, regardless of the season. Public safety – police, fire and rescue, and 911 dispatch – continue as always, 24/7. Parks and libraries maintain their regular hours, but may be a bit more crowded as families on "staycations" take advantage of the free services offered. Removal of signs placed illegally on highway rights-of-way by the Community Labor Force happens every week, under a carefully crafted agreement with the State Highway Commissioner. Homeless persons in our community continue to receive services at the Bailey's Community Shelter. And, the free summer concerts at Mason District Park will continue through August 25.

This August will see a couple of changes of note. Fairfax County Public Schools will start before Labor Day, on **Monday, August 28**. The following day, **Tuesday, August 29**, a special election is being held to elect an At-Large School Board member to replace one who resigned to accommodate a family transfer. Voting will be held at all regular polling places from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. that day. Ballot and absentee voting information is available on-line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm).

### [Absentee Voting - Fairfax County, Virginia](#)

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)

Four Important Things to Know About Absentee Voting in Fairfax County: 1. Your absentee ballot is counted on election night and your vote is included with the ...

Hurricane season is upon us, and now is a good time to check your supplies and preparations in the event of a weather emergency. Fairfax County has helpful information about how to prepare an emergency kit, make a plan, and other useful hints, at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency). Ben Franklin's storied "ounce of prevention" is surely

better than that "pound of cure." A little preparation can go a long way to keep your family safe and sound.

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## Emergency Information - Fairfax County, Virginia

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)

Emergency News The Emergency Information Blog is our main communication platform before, during and after an emergency.

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**National Night Out on August 1** – National Night Out is **Tuesday, August 1, 2017** between 6 – 9 p.m. Enjoy a block party, cookout, or other planned community event. Heighten your awareness about how to keep crime out of our neighborhoods. Fairfax County Police officers will visit many neighborhood activities to support our community commitment to fight crime. For more information, and to invite the police to your event, contact your district police station: Mason Station, 703-256-8035; Franconia District Station, 703-922-0889; and West Springfield District Station, 703-644-7377, or visit the police Web site [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/nno/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/nno/).

**Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter Hosts National Night Out Activities at Spring Lane Park** – The Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter and the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness invite you to celebrate National Night Out on **Tuesday, August 1 from 6 – 8 p.m.** at Spring Lane Park, 3337 Spring Lane in Falls Church (Bailey's Crossroads). Meet and greet area neighbors, local first responders, eat BBQ, pitch a horseshoe or corn-hole bag, and learn more about the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter. Bring a lawn chair or a picnic blanket. Street parking available. For more information, contact Meagan Perkins at [mperkins@nvfs.org](mailto:mperkins@nvfs.org), or call 703-820-7621.

**Lincolnia Planning District Study** – A long-range planning study of the Lincolnia area is reviewing potential 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 through summer, and scheduled for **Tuesday, August 1** and **Tuesday, August 29, 2017**, beginning at 7 p.m. at the [Holmes Middle School library](#), located at 6525 Montrose Street in Alexandria (Fairfax County). Information about the study, and the meeting schedule, can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia). Questions may be directed to Faheem Darab, senior planner, at [faheem.darab@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:faheem.darab@fairfaxcounty.gov), or by calling 703-324-1351. Subscribe to the Lincolnia Planning District Study by e-mail at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia/listservsubscribe.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia/listservsubscribe.htm).

**Fairfax Connector Proposes Service Adjustments** – Beginning in September, Fairfax Connector services adjustments will be implemented to improve customer experience through increased on-time performance, improved service reliability, and reduced crowding. Two

outreach events are scheduled from 6 – 8 p.m., with a 7 p.m. formal presentation, on **Tuesday, August 8** at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road in Alexandria, and on **Thursday, August 10** at Stenwood Elementary School, 2620 Gallows Road in Vienna. Additional information about the proposed changes is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/news/2017/17\\_009.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/news/2017/17_009.htm).

**Deer Management Program Public Meetings** – The Fairfax County Police Department's Animal Services Division and the Fairfax County Park Authority will hold two public information meetings to provide an overview of the Deer Management Program and answer questions prior to the upcoming program season. The two meetings will be held during the following dates, locations, and times:

- **Thursday, August 10, 2017 – 7 to 8 p.m.**  
Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 & 3  
12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax
- **Tuesday, August 15, 2017 – 7 to 8 p.m.**  
Mount Vernon District Police Station, Community Room  
2511 Parkers Lane in Alexandria

For more information, visit the Deer Management Program Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife/deer-management/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife/deer-management/), or contact Dr. Katherine Edwards at 703-246-6868; TTY 711. To report an animal-related emergency, please call 703-691-2131.

**Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concerts at Mason District Park and Ossian Hall Park**

– Enjoy a variety of free entertainment at **Mason District Park**, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale, on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays at 7:30 p.m., **until August 25, 2017**. Children's concerts are on Saturdays at 10 a.m. Cultural performances can be enjoyed on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. **through August 19** at **Ossian Hall Park**, located at 7900 Heritage Drive in Annandale. For a complete summer concert schedule, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/spotlight-by-starlight.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/spotlight-by-starlight.htm). **Note:** Concerts are cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) one hour prior to the performance for weather-related updates.

**Reminders: Hurricane Season Is Here** - The Atlantic hurricane season is in effect, with the peak season from mid-August to late October, through November 30. Update emergency plans, refresh supplies for your family and pets, and be ready if a tropical storm affects our region. The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management is responsible for coordinating preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for significant emergency events that may occur in our community. Sign up for Fairfax Alerts at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts), or call 571-350-1000. Information about hurricane hazards is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/hazards/hurricane.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/hazards/hurricane.htm).

**Oak Tree Owners Watch for Seasonal Defoliators** – The orange striped oakworm (*Anisota senatoria*) is a native moth that feeds on oak trees in late summer and early fall. Diagnostic: Leaves will be stripped except for mid-ribs (or "veins"), usually isolated to specific branches or sections of the tree. This may occur in late summer/early fall, but does not pose much threat to

the trees because trees are preparing to lose their leaves for winter and are not depending on them as heavily for food as they would in the spring or early summer. Treatment isn't warranted usually for this pest because it occurs later in the year when trees are not as stressed by defoliation. Affected branches may be pruned if unsightly. More information about trees is available by visiting the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/ufmdmain.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/ufmdmain.htm), or by calling 703-324-1770, TTY 711.

**Don't Ignore It! - If You See Something, Say Something!** – The Fairfax County Police Department reminds everyone that if you see something suspicious when you are out and about, say something to local authorities! Report suspicious activity by calling 1-877-4VA-TIPS (482-8477). For more information about crime prevention and awareness, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/citizen-awareness/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/citizen-awareness/).

**Can Your Data Rest in Peace? Tips For Your Digital Afterlife** – At a recent discussion about digital afterlife, hosted by our [Economic Development Authority](http://www.fairfaxcountyleda.org) (FCEDA; [www.fairfaxcountyleda.org](http://www.fairfaxcountyleda.org)), expert panelists concluded the answer is both complicated and in continued flux. **Rules for access to your digital estate vary widely, from your Facebook to Instagram accounts** to the passwords to your financial records. In addition, the rules are different by state. The Virginia General Assembly recently passed legislation (became effective July 1, 2017) regarding access to your digital assets after you are deceased. You may view this legislation through Virginia's Legislative Information System, on-line at <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?171+ful+CHAP0033>. Consider the following:

- If you pass away or are incapacitated, does someone have access to your passwords?
- What do you want to happen to your social media accounts when you pass away?
- Do you want your online history, including photos and personal information, to be publicly available? Or, would you rather have everything deleted?
- When you die, who do you want to oversee those decisions – a family member, a friend or a professional with power of attorney?

There are some important steps you can take now. Attorney Pantea F. Stevenson, a panelist at the FCEDA event, provided these suggestions:

- Take an inventory of digital assets, including domain names, bank accounts, investments, photos and videos.
- Understand the rules for your social media and digital accounts, such as Facebook, Google and LinkedIn, regarding access to data and what happens when notified of death.
- Back up tangible media – consider storing photos in a separate library.
- Consider a will or establish a revocable trust that includes your instructions regarding your digital assets.

**SAVE the DATE - Youth Art Re-Imaging Community Dialogue: Moving Toward A Vision**  
– All are invited to an art exhibit, free barbecue, and community dialogue on **Saturday, September 30, 2017**, 1-3 p.m. at the James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road in

Falls Church. This event, hosted by the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, Mason Police Station, and the George Mason University School of Art, will provide adults and youth with the "art space" to be inspired by art, while participating in a visioning process for a better future. Barbecue outdoors, and art exhibit and dialogue indoors. Childcare provided. For more information and to RSVP, please contact [Brittany.Burns@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Brittany.Burns@fairfaxcounty.gov), or call 703-533-5701.

**Mason Matters! The Television Show** – Summertime offers a variety of recreational activities both on land and water. Whether it's playing baseball, soccer, swimming, riding jet skis, or sailing, these activities can drum up an appetite; and what better way to top off the day than with an outdoor barbecue! Outdoor cooking is a hallmark of summer, and with it comes great responsibility. Whether it's a smoker, a pit, or a gas or charcoal grill, safety precautions must be taken to prevent a fire. Location matters - where cooking devices are placed, and their proximity to your home, is important. Just as important is how you clean and store the items, whether it's for the day or the season. The **August** edition of *Mason Matters!*, the television show that brings you news and information about our Mason District community, hosted by Supervisor Penny Gross, features Battalion Chief Ramiro Gálvez with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, and Brian Foley, director of the Building Division of Land Development 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason).

**The Quick 411** – I heard that there are some notable new state laws that recently took effect. Is there a place I can learn about them? Yes. **July 1** marks when **new laws and new budgets become effective** in Virginia and our county. There are many new laws, but highlighted are eight for you to be aware of here (with Virginia House or Senate bill numbers in parentheses if you want to look up more details):

1. *Short-Term Rentals (SB 1578)*;
2. *Eligibility to Absentee Vote if Granted Protective Order (HB 1912)*;
3. *Disclosure of Name of Minor Who is Victim of Murder (HB 2240)*;
4. *Parental Notification of Bullying Incident (HB1709)*;
5. *Photo ID For Concealed Gun Permit (HB 2325)*;
6. *Public Notice of Planned Tuition Increases by Public Colleges and Universities (SB 1376)*;
7. *Rights to Resell Tickets (HB 1825/SB 1425)*; and
8. *School Counselors: Mental Health and Behavioral Distress Training (SB 1117)*.

In addition to new state laws, the county and Fairfax County Public Schools also began new budget years. Fiscal year 2018 runs through June 30, 2018. To learn more, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/8-notable-new-state-laws-effective-july-1-2017/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/8-notable-new-state-laws-effective-july-1-2017/).