

News from...

SUPERVISOR PENNY GROSS



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November 2017

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

The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny – November signals a time when the weather turns colder, daylight is shorter, and those pesky leaves need to be raked. Despite an abnormally warm October, we can anticipate that Mother Nature soon will remind us about dressing warmly and preparing our homes for the winter. Fireplace chimneys might need cleaning before use, and smoke alarms need new batteries. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 5, so you can change the batteries as you adjust your clocks and light timers. Working smoke alarms save lives. Fairfax County has an outstanding Fire and Rescue Department, but preventing the 911 call in the first place can make everyone's day a happier one!

November also has some significant dates to keep in mind. **Tuesday, November 7**, is Election Day in Virginia. Registered voters may vote at their regular polling places on Tuesday, from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. An acceptable photo ID is required to obtain a ballot. **Friday, November 10**, is a Fairfax County government holiday to observe Veterans Day. County offices and libraries will be closed; most recreational centers and parks will be open; and Fairfax County public schools also will be open. On **Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24**, county offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. Check the county's website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov, for more information about your favorite county facility's hours. Vote, honor, and enjoy!

Office Building Repurposing Comprehensive Plan Amendment Advances to Planning

Commission – The **public hearing** before the **Planning Commission** for the proposed Office Building Repurposing Comprehensive Plan Amendment is scheduled for **Thursday, November 2, 2017** at 8:15 p.m. in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. The proposed comprehensive plan amendment would facilitate the repurposing of vacant office buildings in mixed-use activity centers and industrial areas. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/fairfaxforward/pa/officebuildingrepurposing/, call 703-324-1349, or send an e-mail to Sophia Fisher, project manager, at sophia.fisher@fairfaxcounty.gov. The proposed comprehensive plan amendment is scheduled for a **public hearing** before the **Board of Supervisors** on **Tuesday, December 5**.

Fairfax Connector Proposes Service Changes – Fairfax Connector is proposing some service changes to Routes 395, 463, and 699 serving portions of eastern Mason District. The changes would be implemented in December. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) staff is hosting a public meeting on **Monday, November 6, 2017**, from 6-8 p.m., at Irving Middle School, 8100 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield. If you cannot attend the meeting, **public comment may be submitted until Friday, November 10 at 5 p.m.** by e-mail at fairfaxconnector@fairfaxcounty.gov, or by calling 703-339-7200; TTY 711. The proposed changes will come before the **Board of Supervisors** for consideration on **Tuesday, November 21, 2017**. For more information, visit the Fairfax Connector website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/news/2017/17_012.htm, or contact Anna Nissinen at 703-877-5606.

FCDOT Hosts Information Meeting about Backlick Road Walkway – The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) invites you to attend a Citizens Information Meeting on **Thursday, November 9, 2017**, at 7:30 p.m., at the Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, to discuss project 5G25-060-020, **Backlick Road Walkway**. The project includes sidewalk and drainage improvements along the east side of Backlick Road, between Cindy Lane and DeGroff Court. The design for the proposed improvements will be presented, and affected property owners and residents will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments related to the project. If you have questions, or are unable to attend the meeting, please contact the FCDOT project manager, Latesa Turner, at 703-877-5834 or send an e-mail to Latesa.Turner@fairfaxcounty.gov.

VDOT Hosts Incident Management Open House – To kick off the Federal Highway Administration's National Traffic Incident Response Week, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is hosting its first-ever **Incident Management Open House** on **Saturday, November 11**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Veterans Day weekend also is a wonderful time to recognize the many veterans who, after serving their country, continue a career of public service. Traffic incident management is a coordinated team effort between VDOT, local, state, federal, and private partners working around the clock to meet the overarching goal of quick incident clearance to keep Virginia moving. For event information, visit vdotopenhouse.eventbrite.com.

Give Your Household's Cook a Break and Support a Local School – On **Tuesday, November 14, 2017**, from 11:30 a.m. - 11 p.m., Dogfish Head Alehouse, 6220 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church, invites you to dine with them and support Westlawn Elementary School. Participate in a silent auction, a drawing, and feast on your favorite entrée, of which 15 percent of all proceeds benefit Westlawn Elementary School.

Stream Restoration Work Begins at Mason District Park – Stream restoration work scheduled to begin this month at Mason District Park will force closure of some trails in the park. The project involves the restoration of approximately 1,575 linear feet of Turkeycock Run using natural channel design techniques. The primary goal of this restoration is to stabilize the channel and prevent future erosion and degradation along the stream. This project will affect a large portion of the park's trail network, and includes replacement of an existing pedestrian

bridge. Temporary closures will be implemented to ensure the safety of the public and the project team. **Active construction is anticipated to be complete by early June 2018.** For more information, please contact Yudhie Brownson, Construction Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority, 703-324-8511, or the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662, or via Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Holmes Run Stream Valley Trail Closing to Allow Sanitary Sewer Repair Project – In November, a short section of Holmes Run Stream Valley Trail will close to allow completion of an emergency sanitary sewer repair project. Based on the level of repairs required, an approximate 1,500-foot section of trail could be closed for up to one year. The trail follows Holmes Run from the outfall of Lake Barcroft south to Cameron Run Regional Park. Signs will be posted at access points located east of Glasgow Middle School, south of Lillian Carey Park, and north of Parklawn pool.

During a recent assessment of the sanitary sewer system servicing the area, the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services revealed a failing, 1,200-foot section of cast iron pipe that stretches from Colfax Avenue to the stream valley trail. The 1950s-era pipe is being addressed immediately to avoid negative environmental impacts locally and downstream.

The project will be completed in several phases. There will be no interruption of sewer service, and all disturbed vegetation will be restored and trees will be replanted at the conclusion of the project. For more information, or to report a sanitary sewer emergency related to this project, please contact the 24-hour Wastewater Trouble Response Center at 703-323-1211 or 703-239-8444, TTY 703-239-8498.

Farmer's Market Season Ending Soon at Mason District Park – The Farmer's Market at Mason District Park is open for three more **Thursday** mornings, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. **Last day** for the market this year is **November 16**. Fresh herbs, plants, and vegetables are available for your Thanksgiving preparations. For a complete schedule, and information about the Farmer's Markets visit the Fairfax County Park Authority Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/, or call 703-642-0128; TTY 703-803-3354.

Dealing with Non-Reputable Tree Companies – Beware of people going door to door to solicit tree work. There is an epidemic of unscrupulous persons or companies telling residents that trees on their properties need pruning or removal. Never let these individuals into your home. If a solicitor comes to your door, look for identification on his or her vehicle. Before you agree to any work, ask them for a **current** certificate of liability insurance and client references. Most companies will be happy to provide these documents for you. Residents also may contact the Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Branch (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/complaints.htm) to verify whether a business has had past complaints before you hire them. Warning signs are: only accepting cash; not providing a written contract or work plan; and companies that use unmarked vehicles. Finally, take care to look after elderly family, friends, and neighbors who may be vulnerable to exploitation by these non-reputable companies. For more information, please listen to a podcast interview with the Director of Urban Forest Management Division, Keith Cline,

about these companies

at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/podcasts/asx/county_conversation_8_19_15.asx. Information about trees is available

at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/ufmdmain.htm, or call the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division (UFMD) at 703-324-1770; TTY 711.

New Design Guidelines for Baileys Crossroads and Seven Corners – Urban Design Guidelines are an important tool for creating dynamic and attractive places. Property owners, developers, and planners can use this information to help guide the design of new buildings and public areas, and projects can be evaluated against them during the development review process. The recently drafted *Baileys Crossroads and Seven Corners Urban Design Guidelines* contain written and visual ideas about how sidewalks and landscape areas should be detailed, how buildings should be sited, and how innovative sustainable design practices can be used to foster a unique sense of place in these areas.

During the development of the Guidelines, the Fairfax County [Office of Community Revitalization](#) (OCR) staff sought public comment about the desired character for the area and crafted recommendations to reflect community preferences. Now the county is seeking additional public comment about the draft document. The Urban Design Guidelines and feedback survey will be available on OCR's website in early November. OCR also will present the draft document at public meetings during November and December. For more information about the Guidelines and to watch an educational video, visit <http://fcrevit.org/programs/UDGupdate.html>. For more information, send an e-mail to JoAnne Fiebe at Joanne.Fiebe@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-9300.

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](#). For community task force meeting dates, times and locations please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia. The meetings are open to the public. Additional information about the study, and the meeting schedule, is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia. For more information, contact Michael Burton, senior planner, at michael.burton@fairfaxcounty.gov, or by call 703-324-1394. Subscribe to the Lincolnia Planning District Study by e-mail at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia/listservsubscribe.htm.

Mason Matters! The Television Show – The increase of older individuals in our community because of extended life expectancy appears to be an irreversible global trend with far-reaching economic consequences. It is projected that by [2050, the number of people aged 60 and older will more than double](#) from the current levels, numbering around 2 billion. The cost of providing nursing home care has been rising, and 80 to 90 percent of elderly people would choose to reside in their own homes as long as possible, rather than entering a nursing home, assisted living, or independent care facility. The InovaCares For Seniors PACE Program is an all-inclusive approach that provides medical care and activities for seniors during the day to keep seniors healthy and living within their communities as long as possible, a solution that geriatric care specialists say is good for patients, families - and even taxpayers. The **November** edition of *Mason Matters!*, hosted by Supervisor Penny Gross, features Kate Cunningham, program

director, and Eric McCusker, Center Director of the InovaCares for Seniors PACE program, and both with the Inova Health System's Population Health Services Division. *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.

Mason News and Updates – To receive news and updates about Fairfax County services and events in Mason District, 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 – I am an older driver and I heard there is a program offered by Fairfax County to help older adults drive safer. Yes. The Fairfax County Police Department's Traffic Safety Services Division is providing the CarFit program! The number of **older drivers on our roads is increasing** and changes in vision, flexibility, strength, range of motion and height may reduce an older adult's control behind the wheel. The good news is that a few simple [adjustments or use of adaptive devices](#) can increase driver safety significantly. CarFit is a free, quick and comprehensive review of how well an older adult's car meets their needs and abilities. Trained police officers and technicians ask participants several simple questions and complete a 12-point checklist. Drivers receive recommended car adjustments and adaptations and a list of local resources. If you are interested in participating in or hosting a CarFit program, contact Officer Tara Gerhard at tara.gerhard@fairfaxcounty.gov. For additional information, including some adjustments you can make in your own driveway, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/7-simple-adjustments-to-help-older-adults-drive-safer/>.