

News from...

SUPERVISOR PENNY GROSS



MASON DISTRICT GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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March 2018

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

The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny – March is forecast to come in like a lion (wind and rain, not snow!), but the County Executive's release of the proposed FY2019 county budget could be characterized as more like a lamb, as many county priorities – public education, retaining and rewarding hardworking county employees, gang prevention, addressing the opioid crisis, and early childhood initiatives – are recommended for funding. To continue with the metaphor above, the lion's share of the county budget supports schools. The proposed school transfer is \$2.26 Billion, or 52.8 percent of the county budget, while an additional \$88.1 million in county funds supports programs such as Head Start, school health, crossing guards, school resource officers, and after school programming. To meet these overarching priorities, County Executive Bryan J. Hill has recommended a real estate tax rate increase of 2.5 cents, or \$1.155 per \$100 valuation.

Housing values in Fairfax County are enjoying a bit of an uptick; the FY2019 residential equalization (average appreciation in value) is 2.17 percent. Non-residential equalization (apartments, office, retail, hotels) is 3.79 percent, reflecting slightly reduced office vacancies. Overall, in Mason District, property values remained fairly stable, although a few neighborhoods experienced higher increases, based on comparable sales.

The Mason District Budget Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 15, at 7 p.m., at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Mr. Hill and Chief Financial Officer Joe Mondoro will present the budget, followed by a question and answer period. Public hearings about the proposed budget are scheduled for April 10, 11, and 12, in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. To review the proposed budget, or to sign up to speak at a public hearing, log on to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form.

Construction Begins on Route 50 Pedestrian Initiative Improvements – Fairfax County in coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation, will begin construction of 10 projects designed to increase pedestrian safety, connectivity, and accessibility along Route 50/Arlington Boulevard, between Jaguar Trail to east of Patrick Henry Drive in the Seven Corners area of Mason District. One project beginning construction this month will reconfigure

the center median to restrict left turn access onto Route 50 from Woodlawn Avenue and Wayne Road. A high visibility pedestrian crosswalk on the east side of Route 50 and Woodlawn Avenue will connect to ADA accessible curb cut ramps, sidewalks, and bus stop pads. **Active construction** is scheduled **Monday to Thursday, between 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., and Friday between 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**; the project is projected to be completed this fall. For more information, visit the Fairfax County Department of Transportation Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/projects/route-50-pedestrian-improvements. For questions about the Route 50 and Woodlawn Avenue/Wayne Road construction, send an e-mail to Sanjala.Bajracharya@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-3018.

Water Main Replacements Scheduled along Gallows Road in Annandale – As part of Fairfax Water's program to improve water service, selected water mains will be replaced along Gallows Road, in the vicinity of Justine Drive and Village Drive in Annandale. Fairfax Water's contractor, Casper Colosimo and Son, Inc., will begin work within the next several weeks. There may be water service interruptions for short periods during construction. Traffic flow on Gallows Road, Village Drive, and Justine Drive will be maintained, and affected residents will have access to their homes during construction. For questions about the work, contact Jerry Scott, P.E., Chief Construction Engineer, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 703-289-6351, or by e-mail at jscott@fairfaxwater.org. Fairfax Water's after-hours emergency number is 703-698-5613.

Reminder: Senior Citizen Tax Relief 2018 Workshops Scheduled at the Mason District Governmental Center - Supervisor Penny Gross, in collaboration with the Department of Tax Administration (DTA), is hosting free tax relief workshops on **March 7 and 9, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon both days**, at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. DTA staff will be on-site to assist residents with completing the 2018 Tax Relief application form and answer questions. No appointment is necessary. Bring your 2017 tax returns or proof of 2017 gross income from all sources, and all asset information as of December 31, 2017. **Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications.** Qualified residents also may be eligible for car tax and rent relief. For more information, visit the DTA Web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/, or call 703-222-8234; TTY 703-222-7594.

Winter 2018 Leadership Series for Civic and HOA Leaders Continues in March – For the past 11 years, Supervisor Penny Gross has hosted a Winter Leadership Series for Mason District Civic Association and Home Owner Association leaders. The last meeting of the 2018 series is:

- **Saturday, March 10, 2018** – Learn about the Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance, and Hoarding.

The meeting will be held at **the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, from 10 a.m. to noon**. If you can't make one of the meetings, please invite another member of your board to attend. Reserve your seat by e-mail to Fran.Tunick@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-256-7717.

Paving and Restriping Coming to Mason District Roads - The Virginia Department of Transportation and Fairfax County Department of Transportation staff will discuss paving and restriping at a community information meeting on **Tuesday, March 13, 2018, from 7 - 8:30 p.m.**

in the Main Community Room of the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Residents may submit comments about general traffic safety concerns on the roads scheduled for paving until **Friday, March 30**. For more information, visit the FCDOT Web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping, or call 703-877-5600; TTY 711.

Fairfax Animal Shelter Hosts Low-Cost Rabies Clinic for Pets – 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, March 18, 2018** from 12 to 2 p.m., for dogs, cats and ferrets, at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. All dogs **must** be on leashes, and cats and ferrets **must** be in carriers. The vaccination cost is \$15 per pet. Fairfax County 2018 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/animalshelter/.

Public Meeting Scheduled for Edsall Road Fire Station No. 26 – The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Building Design and Construction Services, will host a public information meeting on **Monday, March 19, 2018**, beginning at 7 p.m., in the Cafeteria of Holmes Middle School, 6525 Montrose Street in Alexandria. Learn about the planning and design of the new Edsall Road Fire Station No. 26, located at 5316 Carolina Place. After the project presentation, Fairfax County staff will answer questions from the community. For more information, call 703-324-5800; TTY 711.

Community Partnership Forum: Better Together-New Practices in Cross-Sector Collaboration –

The Community Partnership Forum (formerly called the Nonprofit Forum) will host a one-day conference on **Wednesday, March 21, 2018**, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at George Mason University's Arlington campus. The conference speakers will share what's working and how nonprofits and businesses can benefit from proven strategies including:

- New trends in business-nonprofit models that build revenue, while serving a social mission;
- Workspace co-location can enhance creativity and efficiency;
- Public-private partnerships that deliver community spaces that benefit all;
- How Junior Achievement, SunTrust Bank, and United Way NCA are leveraging their assets to deliver financial empowerment.

This conference is sponsored by Fairfax County, George Mason University – Arlington Campus, United Way, and the Greater McLean Chamber. To learn more and to [register](#), visit the Web site www.mcleanchamber.org/events/details/11th-annual-regional-community-partnership-forum-presented-by-gmcc-uwnc-gmu-5212.

NCS and FCPD Host Community Dialogue at Bailey's Elementary School – The Department of Neighborhood and Community Services and the Mason District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department will host a community dialogue, "Re-Imagining Community through Dialogue, Poetry, and Art" on **Thursday, March 22, 2018**, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Bailey's

Elementary School Cafeteria, 6111 Knollwood Drive in Falls Church. Enjoy an evening of dialogue, poetry, art, and a Latin American dinner. For more information and to RVSP, contact Norma Lopez at 703-533-5475. For information about programs and services available through NCS, visit the department's Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services.

AARP Volunteers Provide Tax Preparation Assistance to Mason District – Free tax assistance is available to residents of all ages **through Tuesday, April 17, 2018 (federal tax returns)**, thanks to AARP volunteers, who are at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. File Virginia taxes before the deadline on **Tuesday, May 1**. AARP volunteers provide walk-in services 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. Bring documents, such as last year's tax return, a photo ID, and all Social Security cards. Residents with illnesses or infirmities, which confine them to their homes, may schedule appointments with AARP for tax preparation services by calling 571-766-6268. For more information about AARP Tax-Aide, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.

Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program Ends on March 31 – The 2017-2018 Fairfax-Falls Church emergency hypothermia shelters are open under a "**no turn-away**" status **until March 31, 2018** at all emergency shelters, based on freezing temperatures. A list of locations is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/emergency-shelters. If you see someone at night who is unsheltered and could be at risk of hypothermia, call the county's non-emergency phone line at 703-691-2131 (TTY 711). Information about the Hypothermia Prevention Program is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention-program. Contact the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness at 703-324-9492, or via e-mail at opehgeneralmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Wilson Boulevard over Arlington Boulevard Bridge Rehabilitation Project – The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will host a **Public Information Meeting** on **Tuesday, April 3, 2018**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (formal presentation at 7 p.m.) at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, 3333 Sleepy Hollow Road in Falls Church, to present information and answer questions about their project to rehabilitate the one-way bridge linking the eastbound Route 50/Arlington Boulevard service road (crossing Route 7) to eastbound Wilson Boulevard in the Seven Corners area of Mason District. Advertisement for construction of the bridge is planned for fall 2018, and construction is anticipated to begin in March 2019, with completion in November 2019. For more information about the project, log-on to www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/wilson_over_50.asp, or call 703-259-3256.

Save the Date: Spring 2018 Culmore Cleanup – The spring 2018 Culmore Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. to Noon**. Join your friends in cleaning our Culmore neighborhood. For more information, 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.

Save the Date: May 7, 2018 for AARP Medicare 101 Seminar – Are you eligible to enroll in Medicare, but don't know where to start? On **Monday, May 7, 2018**, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, AARP, in collaboration with Supervisor Gross, will host an hour-long session that will provide an overview of the different parts of Medicare, coverage and costs, and Medicare plan choices. This session is a good overview for anyone interested in Medicare, and will provide resources and tools to learn more. Additional information will be provided in future newsletters.

Mason Matters! The Television Show – The Board of Supervisors began 2018 with the appointment of Bryan J. Hill as the new Fairfax County Executive. Fairfax County's financial stewardship and preservation of its Triple A Bond rating has served us well, especially when economic forecasts for the region and the nation may be affected by changes in the global economy, and the uncertainty of federal funding to states and localities. Virginia law prohibits localities from operating at a deficit, and our annual budgets must be balanced. The **March** edition of *Mason Matters!*, the television show that brings you news and information about our Mason District community, hosted by Supervisor Penny Gross, features County Executive Bryan Hill, and Joe Mondoro, chief financial officer and director of the Department of Management and Budget. *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 – I recently became a dog owner. Is there a place where I can access information about dog ownership in Fairfax County? Yes. Visit Fairfax County's Guide to Dogs at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/guides/dogs to learn about dog licenses, tips for dog owners, dog parks, county code pertaining to dogs, and you can e