

News from...

SUPERVISOR PENNY GROSS



MASON DISTRICT GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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September 2018

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

The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny – Vacations are over, school has begun, and summer was too short – and too hot! The advent of September may bring some slightly cooler temperatures, but it's hurricane season, so the recent more frequent and more intense rainstorms are bound to recur, either as a named storm, or "anonymously." Now would be a good time to check your roof gutters and drainage areas to make sure they are operating properly and deflecting water away from your home's foundation.

Roadways in many neighborhoods in Mason District are being repaved by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the state agency responsible for maintaining roads in Fairfax County. During the repaving process, however, there may be a delay in repainting center lines, stop bars, turn arrows, etc., so drivers need to pay attention and stay in their lanes, even though those lanes might be unmarked temporarily.

Community events abound this fall – garden days, library book sales, farmers markets, school activities - - and many are listed in this newsletter. Now is the time to explore volunteer opportunities, too, in the schools, the parks, youth sports, homeless shelters, or medical facilities, which can make use of your special talents or interests. Check out the Citizens Emergency Response Team at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/community-emergency-response-team-cert, too. Volunteers help make Fairfax County an extraordinary place to live, work, play, learn, worship, and age gracefully. There's a place for you as a volunteer!

Applications for 2019 Conference Room Reservations Accepted September 1, 2018 – The Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, has conference rooms available for use by community groups based in Fairfax County. Applications for the 2019 calendar year will be accepted beginning **Saturday, September 1, 2018**. Reservation rules and forms are available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason/mason-district-room-use-application-form. Completed forms may be submitted by e-mail at mason@fairfaxcounty.gov or by fax at 703-354-8419. Reservations will be confirmed by e-mail when the application is processed.

RESCHEDULED: Capitol Steps at Mason District Park – The very popular Capitol Steps free concert, originally scheduled for Sunday, July 22, 2018 at the Mason District Park amphitheatre, was

cancelled because of weather. A new, special date, has been arranged for the Capitol Steps to perform this fall. The rescheduled free concert is on **Friday, September 7, at 7:30 p.m.**, at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale.

Green Spring Gardens Park Celebrates Honey Bee Day – Where would we be without the honey bee? On **Saturday, September 8** from 10 a.m. to Noon, celebrate this wondrous insect with the Northern Virginia Beekeepers Association at Green Spring Gardens Park. Meet a beekeeper, see inside a beehive, learn a bee dance, do a bee scavenger hunt, learn how bees are important to our food supply and get tips about how you can help honey bees. Admission is free. Green Spring Gardens Park is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. For more information, call 703-642-5173, or visit the website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Safety Improvements Update North Beauregard Street at North Chambliss Street – Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) invite you to a public information meeting to provide an update about the traffic analysis and safety improvements at the intersection of North Beauregard Street at North Chambliss Street on **Tuesday, September 18, 2018**, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria of Holmes Middle School, 6525 Montrose Street in Alexandria. A **presentation** is scheduled at **7:25 p.m.**, followed by a **question and answer period** at **7:45 p.m.** The proposed project was developed in 2011 by the Mason District Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC-133) Task Force and FCDOT staff, was added to the priority list of FCDOT's Spot Improvement Program, and funded by the 2014 Transportation Bond Referendum. For additional information, contact Seyed Nabavi via e-mail at seyed.nabavi@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-877-5759; TTY 711.

Gallows Road to be Paved this Fall – The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the state agency that controls and maintains the roads in Fairfax County, has scheduled Gallows Road, between Annandale Road and Columbia Pike, for paving in September (weather permitting). Prior to milling and paving, VDOT's contractor will post temporary No Parking signs along Gallows Road. During active construction, drivers may experience a temporary change in the traffic pattern along Gallows Road. New pavement markings will be added to accommodate a center turn lane, bicycle lanes, and a painted median at the intersection of Gallows Road at Columbia Pike. Existing street parking will remain on both sides of the road.

Plant Sale Kicks Off Fall Garden Day – Experienced and novice gardeners will be treated to a variety of local plant and garden craft vendors on **Saturday, September 22**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. Fall is a great time to plant, and gardening needs may be met with numerous plant choices. A silent auction, bake sale, live music, food, and kids' activity tent add to the festivities. Free admission. For more information, call 703-642-5173, or visit the website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Hurricane Season is Still in Effect: Be Prepared – The Atlantic hurricane season is in effect, with its peak during the fall (now until late October), and ending on November 30, 2018. If you have not done so already, 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. For information, and to sign up for Fairfax Alerts, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/, or call 571-350-1000.

Land Use News – Land use items of interest include:

- Northpoint Realty Partners, LLC has submitted an SE/PCA application to amend proffers and conditions associated with the approved I-4 zoning, and to permit an increase in FAR from 0.50 to 0.70 to permit a self-storage facility on a 6.04 acre property located at 6375 Bren Mar Drive. The applicant will present before the Mason District Land Use Committee on **Tuesday, September 25, 2018**.
- The Calvary Church of the Nazarene, located 8220 Little River Turnpike in Annandale, has submitted an SE application for an adult day care center. The facility is proposed to be located entirely within the church's existing structure and proposes no changes or additions to the exterior of the property. Public hearings are scheduled before the Planning Commission on **Thursday, September 13**, and the Board of Supervisors on **Tuesday, September 25, 2018**.
- At its **Tuesday, July 31, 2018** meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved, by a vote of 7 to 3, a Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Short-Term Lodging (STLs) in residential areas. The provisions include: maximum of 60 nights per calendar year; one parking space for lodgers; no more than six adults per night (except where the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code requires fewer occupants); STL advertisements must include a permit number; one rental contract per night; a \$200 fee for a two-year permit; and prohibits events and commercial activities in connection with STLs. The effective date of these provisions is 12:01 a.m. on **Monday, October 1, 2018**.

George Mason Regional Library Fall 2018 Semi-Annual Book Sale – Don't miss out on the George Mason Friends semi-annual book sale, featuring thousands of books, movies, music, e-games, and more, on **Thursday, September 27**, 3-9 pm; **Friday, September 28**, 10 am- 6 pm; **Saturday, September 29**, 10 am-5 pm; and **Sunday, September 30** noon-5 pm. The book sale will be held at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. For more information, call 703-813-6616, or visit <http://georgemasonfriends.blogspot.com/>.

Is Your Voter Registration Current? – If you have had a change in name or address, or are unsure of its status, you may update your voter registration online at the Virginia Department of Elections website: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>. You are eligible to register to vote if you are: a citizen of the United States; at least 18 years of age by the next general election; and a resident of Virginia. **To vote in the November 6, 2018 General Election, you must be registered by the October 15 deadline.** You can register online at the Virginia Department of Elections website or in-person at the Fairfax County Office of Elections. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Thursday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Please note that office hours are extended for statutory deadlines. Additional information about voter registration is available at the Fairfax County Office of Elections website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/voter-registration.

Note Absentee Voting Deadlines for the November 6, 2018 General Election – Mark your calendars with the deadlines for the upcoming General Election on **Tuesday, November 6, 2018**.

- October 15: Voter Registration Deadline (In-Person/By Mail) 5 p.m.; Online: 11:59 p.m.
- October 30: Deadline to apply to receive an Absentee Ballot by mail, 5 p.m.
- November 3: Deadline for In-Person Absentee Voting, 5 p.m.

- November 6: Absentee Ballot return deadline, 7 p.m.

In-person absentee voting at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, will be available beginning **Saturday, October 13** through **Saturday, November 3, 2018**. **Voting times on Saturdays** are from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, and **weekdays** from **3 to 7 p.m.** **No voting on Sundays, or on Monday, October 8 in observance of Columbus Day.** Dates and times for in-person absentee voting and additional information is available from the Office of Elections at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.

Election Officers Needed – Fairfax County is the largest jurisdiction in Virginia with 243 precincts countywide. Residents interested in becoming election officers may submit their application online at www.vote4fairfax.com/apply. For residents who already have applied, the Office of Elections will be issuing additional paperwork at their office, located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323 in Fairfax, Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **For convenience**, the Office of Elections also will have staff at the **Mason District Governmental Center**, Main Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale on **Wednesday, September 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Election Officers must be registered voters in Virginia and complete required training and forms. Additional information is available at the Office of Elections website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/election-officers/working, call 703-324-4735; TTY 711, or send an e-mail to elect@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Farmer's Market Continues into Fall at Mason District Park – The Farmer's Market, hosted by the Fairfax County Park Authority countywide, continues this fall in Annandale every Thursday morning until November 1, 2018, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike. For a complete county-wide schedule, and other information about the Farmer's Markets visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets, or call 703-642-0128; TTY 711.

Preserve Old Photos, VHS Cassettes Free with Library's Memory Depot – Many of us have boxes of family photographs that commemorate events from one generation to another. Technology now enables us to preserve and share those photographs in a digital format. The Fairfax County Library System has launched the free Memory Depot at two locations, the City of Fairfax Regional Library ([10360 North Street in Fairfax](http://10360NorthStreetinFairfax)) and Sherwood Regional Library ([2501 Sherwood Hall Lane in Alexandria](http://2501SherwoodHallLaneinAlexandria)). Learn more by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/preserve-old-photos-vhs-cassettes-free-with-librarys-memory-depot.

Oil Paintings and Pencil Drawings Featured at Mason District Governmental Center – This month, the Art featured in the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, is a collection of oil paintings by Loft Gallery artist (Occoquan, VA) and Springfield Art Guild member Lydia Jechorek. Lydia's subject matter is eclectic, and some of her favorite subjects are people looking at art in museums, city streets, and old cars she discovers abandoned on the sides of roads. Also on display are portrait drawings by students in an Inmate Re-entry Program at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. Under the volunteer instruction of Kelli Schollard-Sincock, students worked from provided photographs, and used a step-by-step pencil drawing process with a gridding system to teach the basics of observation and interpretation. The artwork is on display in the lobby until **Tuesday, October 31, 2018**.

Mason Matters! The Television Show – September is National Suicide Prevention Month. We need to begin thinking about suicide prevention as much as we think about the prevention of other diseases. Our goal is to create a community where everyone recognizes that he or she has a role in preventing suicide. The **September** edition of ***Mason Matters!***, the television show that brings you news and information about our Mason District community, hosted by Supervisor Penny Gross, features Jesse Ellis, Prevention Manager with Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, and Karrie Leigh Boswell, Chairman of the Fairfax "Out of the Darkness Walk" and volunteer with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. ***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 – Now that Fairfax County schools are permitted to begin before Labor Day, drivers are reminded that school zone speeds are 25 mph, and it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus that has activated its flashing red signals while loading or unloading children, either at school or near home. Police will ticket **speeders in school zones**, and passing a **stopped school bus** may be subject to an expensive fine, plus points on your driver's license. (Virginia Code § 46.2-873
- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter8/section46.2-873/> and Virginia Code § 46.2-859
- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter8/section46.2-859/>, respectively.)