

*News from...*

## SUPERVISOR PENNY GROSS



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**August 2016**

**The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny** – Summer's very hot weather promises to stick around for a while, and the Fairfax County Health Department reminds residents to stay cool by reducing outdoor activities, drinking plenty of water, and covering up with a hat and sunscreen if you do have to go out. Heat exhaustion and heatstroke are dangerous to your health. Also, never leave a person or a pet alone in a vehicle during hot weather. Interior temperatures can rise quickly; a pet left in a car last week at a local store perished, despite efforts of the rescue squad called to assist. The owner was arrested and charged with felony animal cruelty.

After more than two years of searching, a permanent site for relocation of the Bailey's Community Shelter has been identified, and Fairfax County signed a contract to purchase commercial property, a former veterinary clinic, at 5914 Seminary Road in Falls Church last month. During the July 26 Board of Supervisors meeting, I made a motion, which was adopted unanimously, to consider an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to determine how the new shelter might best be integrated into this area and to invite community review. The new shelter would provide emergency beds, including medical respite beds, and permanent supportive housing units to reflect the county's Housing First strategy. More information about the Comprehensive Plan review should be available later this fall.

Summer has gone by fast, but there still is a month of free summer concerts remaining. Plan to spend a few evenings (Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays) at Mason District Park for Spotlight by Starlight, or at Ossian Hall Park on Saturdays for concerts celebrating international cultures. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. I look forward to seeing you there!

**Newly Announced Election Officer Training Dates** – Fairfax County needs Election Officers a few days a year, including the upcoming General Election on **Tuesday, November 8, 2016**, at each of the 240 precincts in Fairfax County to run the polls and assist the voters. Election officers must be registered voters in Virginia and complete required training and forms. Election Officers are offered a stipend of \$175 for serving a full day.

First-time (**NEW**) **Election Officer Training** is required, and will be offered in the **Main Community Room** of the **Mason District Governmental Center**, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale on:

- **Wednesday, August 3** at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. - Mason Governmental Center, Annandale
- **Saturday, August 6** at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. - Mason Governmental Center, Annandale

**Experienced Officer Training (EXP)** also is required for all returning Election Officers in 2016, and offered on:

- **Tuesday, August 2** at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., or 6 p.m.
- **Thursday, August 4** at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., or 6 p.m.
- **Friday, August 5** at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m.

More classes will be added soon, and information about other training locations is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/eotraining.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/eotraining.htm). Bilingual citizens are urged to serve, as language assistance is needed in many precincts. Residency in Fairfax County is not required. For more information, visit the Office of Elections Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/working.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/working.htm), send an e-mail to [elect@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:elect@fairfaxcounty.gov), or call 703-324-4735; TTY 711.

**Spotlight by Starlight Concerts Serenade Summer** – Performances featuring Traditional Blue Grass, Roots/Rock, Latin, Vintage Jazz/Blues, and more, can be heard every week in August at **Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike** in Annandale. **Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive** in Annandale, features Peruvian, Indonesian, Colombian, and Russian Cultural Heritage Nights on Saturday evenings in August. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. A schedule of performances is available in the Office of Supervisor Gross, or on-line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances). Admission is free, and parking is on-site. Concerts are cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) one hour prior to performance for updates.

**Redevelopment of 5600 Columbia Pike Planned** – Novus Property Holding LLC has proposed to repurpose the vacant office building located at the intersection of Columbia Pike and Carlin Springs Road near the Fairfax/Arlington County border. The applicant offers an E-Loft concept where the tenant can choose to live, work, or do a combination of both, in their unit. Upon approval of a zoning application, Novus plans to renovate and convert the 10-story 166,000 square foot building into 157 loft units at roughly 1,000 square feet per unit. This would be the second E-Loft building in the region after the alteration of a vacant office building in Alexandria just off King Street near Shirlington.

**Graham Park Plaza Plan Amendment Advances to Next Step** – On January 27, 2015, the Board of Supervisors authorized the consideration of a Comprehensive Plan amendment for Graham Park Plaza, formerly Loehmann's Plaza in the Jefferson Planning District. The current adopted Plan for this area recommends community-serving retail uses. The Board requested that county staff consider a mix of residential and nonresidential uses. Additionally, Plan analysis should provide attention to transportation, while planning for high-quality design for the shopping center. On **Tuesday, September 27, 2016**, county staff will present the draft Plan text to the Mason District Land Use Committee. The meeting will take place at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Plan Amendment also has public hearings before the Planning Commission scheduled for **Thursday, October 20 at 8:15 p.m.**, and before the Board of Supervisors on **Tuesday, December 6 at 4 p.m.**

**The Bailey's Crossroads Seven Corners Revitalization Corporation** – BC7RC, a nonprofit corporation, whose mission is to support and promote the revitalization of the Bailey's Crossroads and Seven Corners area within Fairfax County, will hold its next public meeting on **Tuesday, September 20, 2016** at 7:30 p.m. in the large conference room of the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale.

**The New Mason District Quick Guide** – The new *Mason District Quick Guide* is now available! Similar to the previous Mason District handbooks, the *Mason District Quick Guide* is designed to be a reference to Fairfax County and the Mason District, but now in a fast, concise format. If you know residents in your community who would like to receive a copy of the new guide, or other information about county services, please ask them to call Supervisor Gross' office at (703) 256-7717, or send an e-mail to [mason@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mason@fairfaxcounty.gov). You also can view and download the guide at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason).

**Back to School Night!** – The 2016-17 School Year is fast-approaching, and that means Back to School Night! To view the schedule of Fairfax County Public Schools' Back to School Nights, visit [www.fcps.edu/news/backtoschool/index.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/news/backtoschool/index.shtml). For more information, contact your child's school.

**Fairfax Animal Shelter Returns to Mason District for 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, September 11**, 12 to 2 p.m. for dogs and cats 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. Fairfax County 2016 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal).

**Mason Matters! The Television Show** – 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 John Kellas, Deputy Director of the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program, and Pamela Gratton, Director of Recycling, Engineering and Environmental Compliance for the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program. In recent years, consumers have been encouraged and are motivated to reduce, reuse and recycle whenever possible. As recycling efforts advance, there are changes being made to maintain and improve yard waste and recycling service and costs. Ending the use of plastic bags for yard waste collection is part of this endeavor and a piece of the bigger picture that ultimately benefits all Fairfax County residents. *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** – Is there a place in Fairfax County where I can get consumer advice? Yes. Fairfax County's Consumer Affairs Branch provides educational information to consumers. Whether you are interested in requesting an outreach presentation or simply wanting to learn more about consumer issues, you'll find resources on their *Consumer Education Topics* Web page at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/education](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/education). If you need further assistance, contact the Consumer Affairs Branch at 703-222-8435 or send an email to [consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov).