

News from...

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Mason District Home - Fairfax
County, Virginia

www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Welcome to the Mason District homepage! It is designed for easy use, and I hope you will find the information both helpful and timely.

September 2016

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

The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny – September heralds many new beginnings, as students in Fairfax County embark on a new school year. For the kindergartner or first-grader, taking the big yellow bus to school may be the first real and exciting transition in a young life. For high school students, taking the bus may be a last resort as they anxiously await the responsibility of a drivers' license and the possibility of driving themselves to school.

In any case, safety should be paramount, whether riding the bus or walking to classes. Drivers are reminded that passing a school bus when its red lights are flashing can result in a reckless driving ticket, including \$2500 in fines, loss of your license for six months, and/or 180 days in jail. All drivers must stop when a school bus is loading or unloading (identified by the flashing red lights), unless there is a raised median or wall between the travel lane and the stopped school bus. Most of our residential streets do not have raised medians or walls so, in nearly every case where a school bus is stopped, you should assume that the red lights are about to

start, and be ready to stop. Please pay attention, too, to school zones marked with "25 MPH" flashing signs called Wink-o-Matics. The lights are activated to flash 30 minutes before school starts, and for 30 minutes after class dismissal. Speeding through a Wink-o-Matic sign can result in a ticket, higher fines, and increased points against your license.

Morning and afternoon traffic around schools also may increase this month, as parents and students become accustomed to the schedules and rhythms of a new school year. If your commute takes you past a school, please exercise additional caution and patience. Everyone – drivers, students, and teachers – wants to get to their destination safely. Let's make sure they do.

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. For more information, contact your child's school.

Green Spring Gardens Hosts Fall Garden Day – Scheduled for **Saturday, September 10** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fall Garden Day features local plant and garden craft vendors, a silent auction, bake sale, live music, food, and a kids' table. Support one of Virginia's most innovative and exciting public gardens – Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. For more information about this and other fall events, call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173, or visit the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

Low-Cost Rabies Clinic for Pets Scheduled on September 11 – 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 noon 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.

Election Officer Training Dates Scheduled in September – 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 are offered a stipend of \$175 for serving a full day. Classes and locations for **(New) Election Officer Training** and **Experienced Officer Training (EXP)** are available online at 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 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/working.htm, send an e-mail to elect@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-4735; TTY 711.

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. BC7RC meetings are open to the public.

Shepherd's Center of Annandale Springfield Hosts "Destination Rides" Information

Session – Make a difference in someone's life. Participate in a one-hour information session to learn about issues facing non-driving senior citizens in our community on **Wednesday, September 21, 2016**, from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. Learn from the experiences of a volunteer driver from Shepherd's Center of Annandale Springfield. *This is a free event; you will not be asked to make a financial contribution.* For information and to RSVP, contact Shepherd's Center Annandale Springfield at 703-941-1419, or send an e-mail to Shepherdscas@vacoxmail.com. The Shepherd's Center of Annandale Springfield helps senior adults to continue to live independently by providing services, such as transportation for medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other essential tasks. For more information about services, visit www.Shepherdscenter-annandale.org.

Little River Turnpike Bicycle Corridor Study – Fairfax County is planning to improve conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians along Little River Turnpike. The Board of Supervisors allocated \$7.5 million to make the corridor safer and more inviting for people to walk and bike. The study kicked off in early 2016 and, with the help of community input, is heading toward completion. The goal of the study is to recommend short-term projects for implementation, and long-term recommendations for the corridor that are missing from the current bicycle master plan. The **final meeting of the study**, which will include the recommended projects, will be held on **Friday, September 26, 2016** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Annandale High School, 4700 Medford Drive in Annandale. Additional meetings for implementation of the actual projects will be scheduled in the future. For more information, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/littleriverturnpikebicyclestudy.htm>. Watch for more bicycle projects in 2017, and find more information at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike or contact the FCDOT Bicycle Program at DOTBicyclePrograms@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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. A schedule of public meetings about the proposal will be announced soon.

Study for Lincolnia Comprehensive Plan to Begin this Fall – The Lincolnia Planning District Land Use Study will commence this fall to consider designating a portion of Lincolnia as a Community Business Center (CBC) within the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan. Based on its outcome, the study will provide planning guidance, particularly land use and development intensity recommendations. The study also will provide review and updated planning guidance for the entire Lincolnia Planning District. A citizen task force will lead the community participation and guide the study. There will be numerous opportunities for public participation through community meetings and other venues. For an interactive map of the study area, please visit the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/fairfaxforward/lincolnia/interactive-map/lincolniaplanningdistrict.htm. For more information, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia/, or call 703-324-1380 to speak with either planner Faheem Darab or Michael Burton.

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.**

Semi-Annual Book Sale at George Mason Regional Library! – The Friends of George Mason Regional Library will hold its semi-annual book sale **September 29 - October 2** at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. The hours are **Thursday, September 29**, 3 - 9 p.m.; **Friday, September 30**, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; **Saturday, October 1**, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and **Sunday, October 2**, Noon - 5 p.m. Sale includes more than 50,000 books, DVDs, CDs and sheet music. For more information, send an e-mail to georgemasonfriends@gmail.com, stop by the library, or call 703-813-6616. **Community service hours are available for middle school and high school students.** Interested students must sign up no later than **Sunday, September 11** via e-mail at georgemasonfriends@gmail.com.

Mason Matters! The Television Show – 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 James "JJ" Banachoski, Traffic Safety Specialist with Fairfax County Public Schools' Office of Safety and Security, and Master Police Officer Shayna Nickolas, School Resource Officer at Falls Church High School. Fall is fast approaching, and with it comes shorter days and the start of a new school year. It is important to remember that, with the start of school, comes school traffic. It has become increasingly important to exercise

caution on the roads throughout the school year. Rudimentary rules and practices, such as never passing a stopped school bus, sometimes seem to have been forgotten. It is crucial for drivers, students, and parents alike to remember and follow traffic safety rules to cultivate a safe learning environment. *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 – Is it o.k. to feed geese? **Our wildlife officials urge residents to stop feeding geese.** In addition to health and environmental consequences, geese rapidly can become dependent on human-provided foods. Much of what we use to feed geese (bread, corn, popcorn, pastries, etc.) provides little or no nutritional value, and can cause significant health problems for geese and other wildlife. Left on their own, geese will feed on a variety of nutritious foods that are available (e.g., grasses, sedges, berries, grains and seeds) and will move to new locations when resources have been depleted. For more information about wildlife in Fairfax County visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife. For information on managing wildlife interactions including geese, call the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline toll-free at (855) 571-9003.