

News from...

SUPERVISOR PENNY GROSS



MASON DISTRICT GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
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November 2018

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

The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny – November already? Yes, Election Day is **Tuesday, November 6**, and you should vote at your regular polling place. Polls are open on Election Day from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. If you wish to vote absentee in person, you may do so until **Saturday, November 3**, at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Voting hours are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Cooler weather encourages use of fireplaces and outdoor fire pits, and candle use increases during the holidays, too. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department offers some important safety tips when using open flames. If you haven't used your fireplace recently, have it inspected by a certified professional. Fireplace ashes should be doused with water to be sure they're out, and then placed in a non-flammable container (a metal trash can with a lid is perfect), and placed outside your home, not in the garage. Likewise, an outdoor fire pit can extend use of your deck or patio during cooler weather, but flying embers and ashes can ignite anything flammable – decks, clothing, newspaper. Decorative candles add a lovely ambience to any event, but that open flame needs to be monitored as carefully as that fireplace or fire pit. Additional safety tips are available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/fire-safe-holiday-season.

Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless! That slogan is one I think of often, as volunteerism is part of what makes Fairfax County such a special place to live, work, play, learn, worship, and age gracefully. Volunteers are knocking on doors and covering the polls for the November election. The Culmore Cleanup on **Saturday, November 10** will welcome dozens of volunteers, many of them students, to pick up litter. The Bailey's Community Shelter relies on volunteers to make bag lunches for residents, provide for hypothermia prevention at selected churches during the winter, and support activities at the shelter and at the Safe Haven drop-in program. Some volunteers commit to ongoing projects throughout the year, like Sally Norris of Edsall Park, who raised more than \$7000 this year for the world hunger-fighting Crop Walk, and Terry O'Hara LaVoie, founder of the Culmore Clinic, which provides a medical home to clients who are uninsured. Whether one-time or ongoing, you can find a volunteer project that exactly fits your skills and talents right here in our community.

Veteran's Day falls on **Sunday, November 11**, this year, and will be observed in the county on **Monday, November 12**. Most county offices, libraries, etc. will be closed. However, Fairfax County Public Schools will be open. Check www.fairfaxcounty.gov for up-to-date information about holiday hours.

Farmer's Market Ends Season at Mason District Park – Thursday, November 1 is the last Farmer's Market at Mason District park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Stop by between 8 a.m. and 12 noon for vine-ripened produce and other seasonal goods. The Fairfax County Park Authority has a complete county-wide schedule at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets, or call 703-642-0128; TTY 711.

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**.

- 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 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**. Dates and times for in-person absentee voting and additional information is available from the Office of Elections at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.

Fall 2018 Culmore Cleanup – Lend a hand at the fall Culmore Neighborhood Cleanup on **Saturday, November 10**, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. Join your friends at Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive in Falls Church, where supplies and refreshments will be available for cleanup volunteers. For more information, logon to www.facebook.com/culmorecleanupday, or send an e-mail to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Complete Online Survey for Proposed Annandale Park/Civic Space – The Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization and the Fairfax County Park Authority are seeking public comment about the vision for a new, innovative civic gathering space in downtown Annandale. Residents may review and comment on draft concepts using an **online survey** until **November 13, 2018**. Visit www.fcrevite.org/annandale/parkcivicspace.html to learn more about the proposal and to access the survey. Need more information? Contact Laura Baker at Laura.Baker@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-9300.

Land Use News – Land use items of interest also feature sidewalk connectivity projects:

- Demolition of the **Landmark Building**, 5827 Columbia Pike, was completed in October, and construction debris is being sorted for recycling and final disposal, with cleanup to be completed in November. The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is proceeding with programming and design development for an interim pop-up park, to begin construction in Spring 2019. For more information, contact Joan Beacham, project coordinator, Public Private Partnerships Branch in the Building Design and Construction Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, at Joan.Beacham@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-5668.
- The **Route 50 Pedestrian Initiative** is completing projects, and continuing with new ones along the corridor from Graham Road to Olin Drive. The project at the intersection of **Woodlawn**

Avenue at Wayne Road was completed in October, and consists of a high visibility pedestrian crosswalk on the east side of Route 50 and Woodlawn Avenue, which connects to ADA accessible curb cut ramps, sidewalks, and bus stop pads.

- Construction of 500 linear feet of sidewalk is in progress along **Route 50/Arlington Boulevard, from Patrick Henry Drive to Olin Drive**. The project includes, but is not limited to, concrete sidewalk, pedestrian ramps, curb and gutter, drainage structures, water service adjustments, entrance reconstructions, pavement markings, and new signage. Project completion is anticipated in November.
- A construction award package is in process for an approximate 1,300 linear foot sidewalk and trail along **Route 50, from South Street to Aspen Lane**. The sidewalk will connect to the existing sidewalk adjacent to the gas station at 6519 Arlington Boulevard. Weather permitting and barring any unforeseen delays, construction is anticipated before the end of the year.
- Award authorization is in process for sidewalk construction along **Route 50, from Graham Road to Woodley Lane**. Approximately 2,100 linear feet of concrete sidewalk will complete a connection from the Graham Road bus stop on eastbound Route 50 to the existing sidewalk on Woodley Lane. Additional amenities include curb and gutter, ADA curb ramps, detectable warning surfaces, bus pad, median cut through and asphalt pavement reconstruction (ingress/egress for fire trucks), relocation of fire hydrant, storm drainage improvements, pavement markings, and signage from the approximate intersections of Cedar Hill Road to Allen Street (North Side) and Graham Road to Woodley Lane (South Side) for Pedestrian Access Improvements along the Route 50 corridor. Weather permitting, construction is anticipated in February/March 2019.

Support for Local Businesses' Hazardous Waste Management – Many businesses generate small quantities of hazardous waste, which are subject to strict rules regarding disposal. Fairfax County provides a safe, legal, and affordable way to properly dispose of hazardous materials. Previously known as the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator program (CESQG), this program was renamed the Very Small Quantity Generator program, or VSQG. Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Program will host its next VSQG hazardous waste disposal event, for qualifying Fairfax County businesses, on **Wednesday, November 14, 2018**. Details about sign-up, participation, proper storage, and disposal of hazardous waste is available at the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/very-small-quantity-generators, or call Daniel Brooks at 703-342-6361. Enrollment in VSQG is free, and the program may be used as needed with only a small fee for the hazardous waste being disposed.

Backlick Park Set to Officially Re-Open on Saturday, November 17 – Rainy weather slowed construction but some things are just worth the wait, and the renovations at Backlick Park, 4516 Backlick Road in Annandale, are notable examples. The public is welcome at a ribbon cutting ceremony on **Saturday, November 17, 2018** at 1 p.m., when brief remarks and light refreshments will be provided. The \$1 million project, funded by the 2016 Park Bond, brings new life to this 8.9-acre park, and features a new shelter and picnic tables, a new playground, a new fitness area, renovation of existing tennis courts, new tennis court lighting, and repaved trails and parking lot. Information about all the parks and amenities in Fairfax County is available on the Park Authority's website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/, by e-mail at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyparks, or call 703-324-8702; TTY 711.

Acrylic Paintings and Pencil Drawings Featured at Mason District Governmental Center –

The Art featured in the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, is a collection of acrylic paintings by Deborah Mahnken, a graduate from the University of Virginia, who paints in pastel and acrylic of rural landscapes, particularly mountains. The artwork is on display in the lobby from **Monday, November 5** through **Friday, December 28, 2018**.

Save the Date: Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering – Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross invites you to Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering on **Monday, December 10, 7 p.m.** at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Refreshments, musical entertainment, and door prizes kick off this annual holiday event.

Mason Matters! The Television Show – Although fire safety is often thought of as seasonal – holiday candles, outdoor grill cooking - fire safety needs to be a continuous practice. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department responds year-round to all kinds of incidents, not just fire related issues. The department routinely handles medical emergencies, fires, and various forms of rescue. It also promotes fire prevention and life safety education to inform and better protect our community. With fall and winter upon us, now is a good time to prepare and protect yourself and your family to prevent an emergency. The **November** edition of *Mason Matters!*, the television show that brings you news and information about our Mason District community, hosted by Supervisor Penny Gross, features Fairfax County's new Fire and Rescue Chief John S. Butler. *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 would like to take some steps to prepare my lawn for next year. Is there any general information available? Yes. Fall often is associated with cool weather, hayrides and pumpkin-flavored goodies. But it's also the best time of year to fertilize your yard and give it the best chance to thrive next spring and summer. The [Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/) (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/) offers some helpful tips at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/now-is-the-time-to-take-care-of-your-lawn-for-next-year/.