

*News from...*

# SUPERVISOR PENNY GROSS



MASON DISTRICT GOVERNMENTAL CENTER  
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**May 2017**

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

**The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny** – As you know, the past few months in Fairfax County were focused on budget, as the Board of Supervisors considered the county executive's proposals for FY2018. The final budget is a disciplined one that maintains most county services, without increasing the real estate tax rate. The Board will adopt the FY2018 budget formally on **Tuesday, May 2, 2017**; the new budget takes effect on July 1. The adopted budget, along with Board members' budget questions, can be accessed online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget).

Department of Management and Budget - Fairfax County,  
Virginia

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)

Tell the Budget Office what additional information you would like posted on this page to help you better understand the budget

Drivers running stop signs and red lights create a serious, even deadly, problem in our community. Unfortunately, it is not unusual to see two, or even three, vehicles blasting through red lights at intersections, well after the light has changed to green for cross traffic. Traffic calming in neighborhoods has resulted in more stop sign installations to slow speeders, but those, too, are routinely ignored. Please don't be a scofflaw or a statistic. Taking a moment or two to obey traffic signs and signals saves lives – yours and others.

The **Solarize Fairfax County** campaign began in early April, and more than 600 households signed up for information and free solar assessments in the first three weeks of the campaign. The program can connect you with financing options and contractors for installation. The campaign ends on **Friday, June 30, 2017**. More information about **Solarize Fairfax County** can be found online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/solarize](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/solarize).



## Solarize Fairfax County Offers Limited-Time Discount to Go Solar

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)

Solarize Fairfax County runs from April 18 through June 30, 2017.

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**Youth Art Inspiring Community Dialogue** – All are invited to a community dialogue and art exhibit created by local high school students – "Youth Art Re-Imagining Community" – on **Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**, at the Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center, located at 3159 Row Street in Falls Church. The event, hosted by the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, Mason Police Station, and the George Mason University School of Art, will give adults and teens an opportunity to have a dialogue about what kind of world they would like to inherit and what we can do about it together. Free chef-prepared, Middle Eastern dinner and childcare will be provided. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Brittany Burns, 703-533-5701; TTY 711.

### **Community Meeting Scheduled for Columbia Crossroads Rezoning Application**

– Supervisor Penny Gross invites you to a community meeting about the Columbia Crossroads rezoning application on **Thursday, May 4, 2017** at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Community Room of the Mason District Governmental Center, located at 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. The subject parcel is located on the east side of Moncure Avenue and the south side of Columbia Pike, approximately 500 ft. southwest of the interchange with Leesburg Pike. County staff and the applicant's representative will brief the community about this rezoning application, answer questions, and take comments. For more information, contact Sharon Williams at 703-324-2385, or Joan Beacham at 324-5668, or visit the Web site <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4230589>.

**Farmer's Market Opens at Mason District Park** – The Farmer's Market, hosted by the Fairfax County Park Authority countywide, will be open every **Thursday** morning, beginning **May 4, until November 16, 2017**, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. The Farmer's Market offers vine-ripe produce, fresh baked goods, herb plants, and much more for your spring and summer time enjoyment. For a complete schedule, and other information about the Farmer's Markets visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/), or call 703-642-0128; TTY 703-803-3354.

**VCO Features America's Musical Keepsakes** – The Virginia Chamber Orchestra (VCO) is pleased to feature the music of Copland, Ives, Barber, and more on **Sunday, May 7, 2017** at 4 p.m. at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Photographer Jim Steele will display a selection of work, and the Alexandria Choral Society joins VCO. For more information and tickets, visit [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org). All students admitted free.

**FREE Document Shredding in Mason District!** – The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will sponsor secure document shredding at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, on **Saturday, May 13, 2017**, 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. Residents may bring up to five medium-sized packing boxes of paper per household (remove paper from binders and paper clips, binder clips, and rubber bands). This event is for paper document shredding only, and intended for shredding documents of a personal or sensitive nature such as tax documents, medical or financial records. For more information and events, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling/), send an e-mail to [trashmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:trashmail@fairfaxcounty.gov), or call 703-324-5230; TTY 711.

**Annandale Spring Cleanup Scheduled for May 13** – The Annandale Spring Cleanup will be held on **Saturday, May 13, 2017** at 8 a.m. Anyone wishing to join community volunteers is welcome to meet them at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, to receive bags, gloves, and a map. For more information, contact Helen Winter at 703-256-9620.

**Get to Know Your Muslim Neighbor** – The Muslim American Society will host a community event, "Get to Know Your Muslim Neighbor," on **Saturday, May 13, 2017**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. Learn about "A Forgotten History: Muslims and Early America," activities for all ages, and enjoy international delicacies. For more information, send an e-mail to [info@masdc.org](mailto:info@masdc.org), call 703-278-3717, or visit [www.masdc.org/](http://www.masdc.org/).

**Salvation Army Extends Donation Hours** – Spring is a great time to donate gently used clothing, furniture, electronics, and household goods to needy families in our community. The Salvation Army Donation Center at 6528 Little River Turnpike in Alexandria (Fairfax County), is now open until 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday, to accept donations. For more information, call 703-642-9270.

**Go Green: Bike To Work on May 19!** – May is National Bike Month and **Friday, May 19, 2017**, is "Bike to Work Day," so leave your car at home, and join thousands of commuters who will use pedal power, instead of horse power, and bike to work! Participants may register free online at [www.biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org), or call 800-745-RIDE (7433) to register. In Fairfax County there are 13 pit stops where the first 16,000 registrants can get free T-shirts. To find the most convenient bicycle route, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/bikemap/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/bikemap/), contact the pit stop managers listed on the Bike to Work Day Web site, or contact the Fairfax County Department of Transportation's bicycle program staff at 703-877-5600; TTY 711, or by e-mail

at [DOTbicycleprograms@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:DOTbicycleprograms@fairfaxcounty.gov), or call 703-324-BIKE (2453). Information also is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/).

**FROGS Sponsor Spring Garden Day Plant Sale** – The Friends of Green Springs (FROGS) are sponsoring the Big Plant Sale at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria (Fairfax County), on **Saturday, May 20, 2017**, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. More than 40 local garden vendors will feature beautiful and unusual plants to fill spring gardening needs. Growers and Master Gardeners will be available to help with plant selections and gardening advice. FROGS receive 10 percent off plants in Green Spring's Garden Gate Plant Shop.

**Virginia Primary Elections** – Virginia will hold its Primary Elections on **Tuesday, June 13, 2017**, from 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. Sample ballots, candidate information, voter registration, and information about absentee voting are available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections). For more information, call the Office of Elections at 703-222-0776; TTY 711, or send an e-mail to [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Mason Matters! The Television Show** – Across the Washington Metropolitan area, gang activity has been on the rise and the tragic, horrible news of recent gang-related homicides has elevated concerns throughout the community. Although Fairfax County remains one of the safest jurisdictions in the country, gang prevention continues to be a complex task, requiring the combined efforts of law enforcement and other government agencies, schools, parents, a network of organizations, and the community at-large. Nearly 20 years ago, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved funding for a dedicated gang unit in the police department, focused on the prevention, intervention, interdiction, and suppression of gang activity in the county, and educating the school system and the community about gangs, the role of parents and mentors, after-school programs, and other aspects crucial to helping youth make good decisions. After-school programs and new youth activities blossomed. Despite such ongoing efforts, gang activity continues. The **May** edition of *Mason Matters!*, the television show that brings you news and information about our Mason District community, hosted by Supervisor Penny Gross, features Ed Ryan, Gang Prevention Coordinator for Fairfax County, and Jonathan Melendez, Prevention Coordination Specialist, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. *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** – I am an older adult re-entering the job market. Is local help available? Yes. If you are an older adult seeking to stay viable in the job market, or are looking to re-enter the workforce, here are three tips for you to consider:

- ***Network*** - Keep an eye out for networking opportunities specifically for older adults, such as the **free 50+ Employment Expo on Thursday, May 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Fair Oaks Marriott**. Last year more than 1,000 residents attended the expo and met with dozens of job recruiters for full-time, part-time, and seasonal positions. You can also get resume assistance and attend helpful seminars.
- ***Visit SkillSource*** - If you are re-entering the workforce, you may be concerned that your skills, especially in our technology-driven world, are a little rusty. [SkillSource](#) is a

nonprofit organization with six locations in our area that provides a wide range of free job placement, training, and educational services.

- ***Go Back to School*** - Fairfax County Public Schools' Adult and Community Education (ACE) program has a wide range of training opportunities in apprenticeship, business, information technology, health and medical, and trade and industrial programs. In addition, residents 62 years of age or older may opt for a 25 percent tuition discount, or if suffering a financial hardship, may apply for a full tuition waiver. For more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/3-tips-for-older-adults-in-the-job-market-employment-expo-is-may-11/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/3-tips-for-older-adults-in-the-job-market-employment-expo-is-may-11/).