

News from...

SUPERVISOR PENNY GROSS



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December 2017

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

The Board Corner: Perspectives from Penny – December is here already, with all the glitter and celebrations of the winter holidays in our diverse community. I hope you will join me for the 22nd Annual Mason District Holiday Town Gathering on **Monday, December 11, 2017**, in the Main Community Room of the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. The festivities start at 7 p.m. with live musical entertainment by The Chris Johnston Trio, one of the outstanding performing groups of the NVCC-Annandale Orchestra. We will have refreshments, door prizes, and an opportunity to meet with friends and neighbors across Mason District. I also will be giving my annual State of the District report, but mostly the evening will be a fun kick-off to the holiday season. The evening is open to all, and is family-rated. I look forward to seeing you there.

Just before Thanksgiving, the Board of Supervisors announced the selection of Bryan J. Hill as our new County Executive, succeeding Ed Long, who retired in September. Mr. Hill was previously deputy county administrator for Beaufort County, South Carolina, and is the county administrator for James City County in the Tidewater area of Virginia. Mr. Hill was selected during a national search by the Board of Supervisors, and will begin his new duties on January 2, 2018. I look forward to introducing Mr. Hill to Mason District soon.

The holidays also are a time for remembering those less fortunate in our community. Please consider making tax-deductible donations to your favorite local charity. I always make sure to support ACCA, the Annandale Christian Community for Action, so that these wonderful volunteers can continue their mission of serving families in need. More about ACCA, and how you can help, is available at <https://accacares.org>, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ACCACares/>, by e-mail at accacares@verizon.net, or call 703-256-0100. May your holidays be merry and bright!

Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program Begins December 1 – Because of the successful public-private partnerships that serve the critical needs of chronically homeless persons, the 2017-2018 Fairfax-Falls Church emergency hypothermia shelters are open under a "no turn-away" status from now **until March 31, 2018** at all [emergency shelters](#) (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention/emergency-shelter.htm), based on

freezing temperatures. If you see someone at night who is unsheltered and could be at risk of hypothermia, call the county's non-emergency phone line at 703-691-2131 (TTY 711). Information about the Hypothermia Prevention Program is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention/.

Arts and Crafts Show at Audrey Moore RECenter - Find that perfect holiday gift for a friend or loved one, or for yourself, at one of Northern Virginia's longest-running arts and crafts shows. Don't miss the 40th Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Show at Audrey Moore RECenter the first weekend in December. Shop for top-quality handmade arts and crafts offered by nearly 100 of the area's finest artisans. Door prizes will be awarded, too. The show runs on **Saturday, December 2, 2017** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on **Sunday, December 3**, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$2 per person; children age 12 and under are admitted free. [Audrey Moore RECenter](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recenter/) is located at 8100 Braddock Road in Annandale. For more information, or reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-321-7081.

Gardeners Holiday Open House – On **Sunday, December 3, 2017** from 12 – 4 p.m., the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) and Green Spring Gardens welcome gardeners of all ages to a free day of holiday fun, featuring holiday decorations, seasonal displays, live music, free refreshments, holiday breads and ornaments for sale. Treat children to a holiday puppet show by Bob Brown Puppets at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. (\$5/person; advance registration is recommended). For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring, or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria.

Lincolnia Planning District Study Continues in 2018 – Public hearing dates for the study are scheduled for early next year. Staff and task force recommendations will be shared before the Planning Commission on **Wednesday, January 24, 2018** at 7:30 p.m., and before the Board of Supervisors on **Tuesday, March 6, 2018** at 4 p.m. The public hearings will conclude Phase II of the long-range planning study of the Lincolnia area. The study will continue to review potential changes to Comprehensive Plan guidance (Plan Amendment 2013-I-L1) for the Lincolnia Planning District into Phase III, beginning early spring 2018. Additional information about the study is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia. For more information, contact Michael Burton, planner, at Michael.Burton@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-1394. Subscribe to the Lincolnia Planning District Study e-mail notifications at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia/listservsubscribe.htm.

Volunteer Drivers Needed – The Shepherd's Center of Annandale - Springfield, a nonprofit seniors helping seniors organization, needs volunteer drivers to take area adults ages 50 and older to medical, dental, and physical therapy facilities during the week, and shopping and banking on weekends. The demand for this service is increasing, and new drivers are welcome and needed. Volunteers may drive often when it fits their schedules, and this will make a real difference in the lives of area seniors. For more information, or to volunteer, call 703-941-1419. Volunteers also are welcome for other programs, such as event planning for luncheons, community outreach, and Board of Directors.

VDOT is Ready for Snow this Winter – The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is ready for snow season with plow-tracking technology, expanded monitor program, and a one-

stop shop for online resources that is available for residents to use. VDOT has budgeted \$84.9 million for snow removal in Northern Virginia this winter, and the agency's state and contracted fleet is ready with 120,000 tons of salt; 250,000 gallons of brine; 25,000 tons of sand; and 4,500 vehicles (97 percent of fleet is contracted).

Highlights for Snow Season 2017-2018

- **One stop-shop for resources:** Visit www.virginiadot.org/novaemergency to access all of VDOT's online information resources, including important messages and updates, news releases, and links to the [customer service center](#), [511](#), and vdotplows.org.
- **Monitor program:** This year, 180 VDOT employees will ride the roads to monitor road conditions and snowplow progress, and more than 30 employees will monitor remotely via the automatic vehicle locator (AVL) equipment.

How You Can Help and Resources:

- Monitor forecasts frequently;
- Adjust commutes, telework, and avoid driving if possible;
- Park in driveways or park on the odd-numbered side of the street.
- Do not shovel driveway until plows have come through;
- Have enough gas, wiper fluid, proper tires, medication, and an emergency car kit;
- Be patient: crews need time and room to work.

Stay Informed:

- [@vadotnova](#) on Twitter;
- virginiadot.org/novaemergency for status updates, FAQs, and other resources;
- 511virginia.org for road conditions and traffic cameras;
- vdotplows.org for neighborhood status and locations of plows; and
- my.vdot.virginia.gov or 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623) to report issues.

Where Do I Put It or Take It? – Do you have household waste to get rid of? If so, make sure you know how to properly dispose of it. Simply setting items out at the curb **does not** guarantee proper disposal. Materials you can set out may vary by [who collects it](#) (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/curbside-who.htm) or your [type of residence](#) (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/minimum.htm). If the item(s) can be set out, you may be required to schedule a pick up for it to be hauled away. To learn more, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/intro-where.htm. For more information or, if you're still not sure who provides your trash service, call **703-802-3322, TTY 711** for assistance. Remember, you also can self-haul your trash, using your own vehicle, to a [county facility](#) (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/dispsites.htm).

Mason Matters! The Television Show – As preparations for festivities are underway, the holiday season also is a time when trusting individuals fall prey to scam artists. Scam artists target their victims in all age groups, year-round and in many ways, and they often focus on individuals whom they perceive as vulnerable – our senior citizens. During a one-year study, the Federal Trade Commission estimated that, nationwide, 11 percent of adults, or 25 million people, lost money as a result of criminal activity. Protection from scam artists begins with education, which is why the Silver Shield Anti-Scam Campaign was launched – to educate older adults, families of senior citizens, caregivers, and the public about how to protect themselves from financial fraud and various scams, and to enhance personal safety and security. The **December** edition of *Mason Matters!*, the television show that brings you news and information about our

Mason District community, hosted by Supervisor Penny Gross, features Detective Ryan Young with the Fairfax County Police Department's Elder Exploitation Prevention Unit, and Grace Lynch, communications manager with the Department of Family Services, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. *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 – I (and/or my family) will be online a lot this holiday season. Does Fairfax County offer some concise cyber security advice to follow? Yes. Most of us will be online even more than usual this time of year. All that information sharing also makes us more vulnerable to cybersecurity threats and costly identity thefts. There are steps you can take to ensure your personal information stays safe and secure, and what you can do if you are hacked. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/7-cybersecurity-tips-to-keep-your-holidays-and-every-day-secure/ to learn about how to stay safe and secure online.

Happy Holidays!