



JEFFREY C. MCKAY  
CHAIRMAN

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
**COUNTY OF FAIRFAX**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22035

Suite 530  
12000 GOVERNMENT CENTER PARKWAY  
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22035-0071

TELEPHONE 703- 324-2321  
FAX 703- 324-3955

[chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## **Joint Board Matter**

**Chairman McKay  
Supervisor Storck**

**October 19, 2021**

Energy usage in Fairfax County is changing. As the Fairfax community works collectively towards our ambitious goals for net zero energy and carbon emissions reductions, Fairfax County government should be working to reduce barriers to making the switch to environmentally friendly alternatives.

The auto industry has seen a boom in electric vehicles (EVs). As EVs become more populous, we need to ensure we have the resources and infrastructure available for our community members. Electric vehicles require additional infrastructure built into existing facilities. This can present a major hurdle for residents looking to make a simple switch to a gas-alternative vehicle. Permitting fees can add a financial burden on to well-meaning residents and disincentivize the environmentally sustainable actions we're encouraging our residents to take. The Climate Crisis is now – we do not have time to wait on actions that can improve our carbon emissions and resiliency towards a changing environment.

Therefore, I move that the Department of Land Development Services analyze the waiver of permitting fees associated with the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure. An analysis waiver should include not only commercial properties, but residential as well. Staff should report back to the Board on the feasibility of a waiver of fees no later than February 2022.



**James R. Walkinshaw**  
**Braddock District Supervisor**

**Kings Park Library  
9002 Burke Lake Road  
Burke, VA 22015**

**703-425-9300**  
**Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov**  
**www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock**

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**Joint Board Matter**

**Supervisor James Walkinshaw  
Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay  
Supervisor Pat Herrity  
Supervisor Dan Storck**

**October 19, 2021**

**Surviving Spouse Tax Exemption**

**Background**

Mr. Chairman, in 2014 the voters of Virginia approved a Constitutional Amendment which exempts from taxation, under certain eligibility requirements, the real property of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States who was killed in action, as defined by the Department of Defense. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Title 58.1, Chapter 32, Article 2.4, Fairfax County began offering this exemption in 2015.

It recently came to my attention that a small group of surviving spouses in Fairfax County were, due to confusion regarding the language of the statute, inadvertently approved for the exemption and have been receiving it for several years. Their deceased veteran spouses died while serving in the armed forces, but do not meet the definition of "killed in action." Some were 9/11 victims and some died while deployed overseas, but were not killed by an enemy in combat. As such, the Department of Taxation was informed by the Commonwealth of Virginia that we may no longer grant the exemption to these individuals.

While this Board has correctly expressed its concern with the imposition of mandatory property tax exemptions on local governments, some of which drain significant resources from our budget and negatively impact public safety, education, and human services, this small group of individuals believed they were eligible for the exemption based on our approval of their applications, have received it for several years, and have planned their finances around its continuance. Furthermore, the Commonwealth is currently undertaking a study to examine the fiscal impact of extending this tax exemption to all those "killed in the line of duty." The results of that study are expected by November 1.

**Motion**

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board of Supervisors refer this matter to the Legislative Committee and direct Legislative Staff to work with the General Assembly to identify a narrowly crafted solution that will allow us to continue to offer this property tax exemption to the small group of individuals who have received it while reiterating the Board's position that any expansion of local tax exemptions should be a local option, rather than a mandate. I further move that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to prepare a report to the Board: (i) summarizing the number of potential surviving spouse families eligible for tax exemption for line of duty deaths and (ii) identify the impacts of extending the real estate tax exemption to line of duty deaths.



DALIA A. PALCHIK  
PROVIDENCE SUPERVISOR

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
**COUNTY OF FAIRFAX**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

Suite 218  
3001 VADEN DRIVE  
FAIRFAX, VA 22031

TELEPHONE 703-560-6946  
FAX 703- 207-3541

providence@fairfaxcounty.gov

**October 19, 2021**

**Joint Board Matter with Supervisors Gross and Storck**  
**Plant NOVA Trees Campaign**

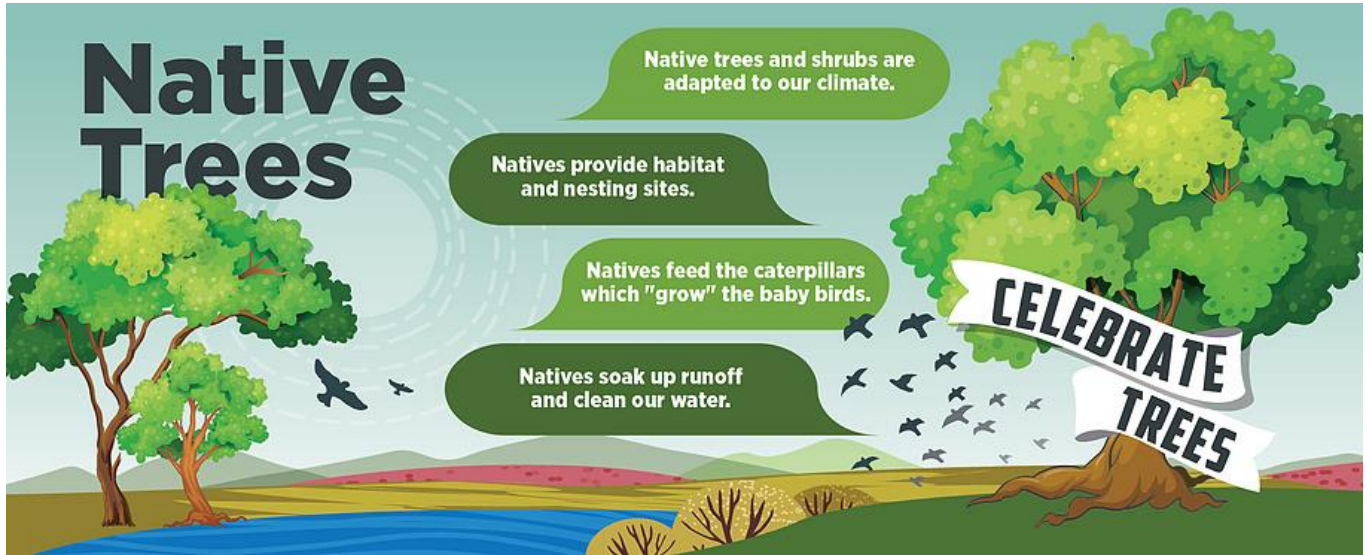
Members of the Board,

Plant NOVA Trees is a new and focused drive by the Plant NOVA Natives campaign to increase the native tree canopy in Northern Virginia. This initiative launched in September 2021, will continue through the Fall of 2026, and is supported by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

*“A native tree is one that evolved within a given local ecosystem and therefore participates fully in its intricate plant/animal/fungal interactions.”* With the growth in our region, we have also witnessed the decline of the local tree canopy. Expanding and replanting our tree canopy in developed areas has many benefits, including reducing the urban heat island effect, improving water quality, and making the land more hospitable to wildlife by providing food and shelter.

There are numerous ways that we can help get the word out about native trees and the importance of planting them, and I hope we embrace this campaign as our own. If our County is to meet its stormwater and climate goals, everyone needs to work together on this as on other issues. The campaign’s success rests on the action of the millions of individuals who make up our Northern Virginia community. Additional information can be accessed directly at: [www.PlantNOVATrees.org](http://www.PlantNOVATrees.org).

Therefore, we move that the Office of Public Affairs help support the outreach efforts of the Plant NOVA Trees campaign and develop a communications strategy to include social media, the sharing of Plant NOVA Trees information and content, and encourage all residents to consider participating by planting native trees.





# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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**Supervisor Pat Herrity  
Jointly with Supervisor Storck and Supervisor Gross  
Board Matter  
October 19, 2021  
Fairfax County Recycles Day and Solid Waste Management Program  
Recognition as Sustainability Partner in the VEEP**

**Background:** America Recycles Day takes place each year in November and is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. Nationally, thousands of organizations, including our neighboring jurisdictions, hold events to educate people about recycling resources in their community. This year there will be multiple ways for residents to engage in America Recycles Day as we encourage everyone to increase their recycling at home, at school, in the office and in the community. Similar to last year's very successful webinar on recycling, this year our Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) will host a Facebook Live event featuring a panel of recycling experts. More details on this event and other in-person events will be publicized soon.

In addition, SWMP will be holding a recycling poster design contest, inviting the public to create a poster that celebrates the three Rs – Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The winning design may be used on their website, or possibly even as a wrap on a collection truck. Designs can be made by hand or digitally, but all art should be original. Originals may be drawn on paper that is letter-size or larger (ledger-size, or 11x17 is best). Digital versions should be high resolution so that they can be enlarged. Entries can be submitted electronically or brought to the Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) office at the Fairfax County Government Center – 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Ste 458, Fairfax, VA 22035. Entries should be submitted by Monday, November 8, 2021. Questions concerning the contest should be directed to the SWMP Outreach and Engagement Team at 703-324-5230, TTY 711, or by emailing to [recycling@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:recycling@fairfaxcounty.gov).

In celebrating Recycles Day, we cannot overlook the leadership and success of our Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) in promoting environmental sustainability. SWMP recently received a letter and certificate from the Virginia

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**SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY  
SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT  
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
6140 Rolling Road  
Springfield, VA 22152  
703-451-8873 TTY 711 Fax 703-451-3047  
[Springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approving its acceptance as a Virginia Environmental Excellence Program Sustainability Partner (VEEP SP) for calendar year 2022. The DEQ recognizes organizations making environmental sustainability part of their culture through leadership, innovation, and continual improvement. The approval was granted based on several significant environmental achievements the SWMP has made, including its strategic partnership with Prince William and Arlington counties and the City of Alexandria to recover and recycle glass, and its work with a gas engine plant to generate electricity for sale back to the grid from the I-95 Landfill Complex, which produced enough energy in 2020 to power 1,800 households.

By declaring a “Fairfax County Recycles Day,” we can build on this success and continue to highlight the benefits of recycling as well as help our residents recycle more.

**Motion:** Therefore Mr. Chairman, I move that we declare November 15<sup>th</sup>, Fairfax County Recycles Day, in alignment with the national initiative to better promote our local efforts to recycle and ask OPA to publicize. Furthermore, I move that we prepare a proclamation recognizing Fairfax County Recycles Day and the SWMP’s acceptance as a Virginia Environmental Excellence Program Sustainability Partner (VEEP SP) for calendar year 2022. This proclamation should be presented to the Director of the Solid Waste Division and members of the recycling team at our November 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.