



## A message from Kathy Smith

On Wednesday we held our annual Sully District budget town hall. I co-hosted this event with Supervisor Michael Frey for 14 years as a School Board member, and now as a Supervisor I am co-hosting with Tom Wilson, Sully's school board member who replaced me last year. I greatly appreciated that County Executive Ed Long joined us to answer questions from the community on his proposed budget. We also had Alice Wigington from the school system's budget office who did a great job discussing their budget as well.

Looking forward, I hope you will stay engaged in the budget process by attending a budget town hall on April 4, 5, or 6 at the Government Center. You can sign up to testify here: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/public.htm>

Sincerely,

*Kathy*

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## Animal Shelter Corner



### Meet Zena!

**Age:** 2y 2m

**Gender:** Female

**Color:** Blue / White

**Spayed/Neutered:** Yes

**Size:** Large

Sweet Zena is an absolute doll! She loves people - if you're giving her pets and scratches, she doesn't want you to stop. She's happy to play, but she's more interested in you than she is in the toy. And she has the wonderfully soulful eyes that just make you melt. She came to the shelter because her owners were moving and they couldn't take her. They said that she does well with kids and dogs, although the shelter recommends a visit with any potential doggy siblings. Come see this friendly girl today! To learn more

about Zena email the animal shelter at  
[animalshelter@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:animalshelter@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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## Free Tax Relief Workshops For Older Adults, People with Disabilities



The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is hosting a series of **free tax relief workshops in March** at several locations throughout the county. Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications; you also may be eligible for car tax relief and tax relief for renters.

County staff from the Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will be at the locations listed below to assist with filling out the application form, as well as answering questions. The schedule is by district and you may contact the phone numbers listed below for more information on a workshop. All phone numbers are TTY 711.

More information on tax relief can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta), or call 703-222-8234 (TTY 711).

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**Sully District:**

**March 23, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

No appointment necessary.

Sully District Governmental Center

4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151

703-814-7100

**Resources:**

- [Additional Information and Deadlines](#)
- [Audio: Understanding Tax Relief](#)
- [Spanish Language Audio: Understanding Tax Relief](#)

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**Celebrate Women's History Month at  
Ellanor C. Lawrence Park**

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From the 1700s to the present, women have played important roles in the history of Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and the county as a whole. Learn about those contributions in special hour-long walking tours at the park on **Saturday, March 11** and **Sunday, March 19, 2017**.

On the walk, hear stories of a woman defending her family during the Civil War and one whose lasting gift to the county continues today. Learn how the women of Walney both lived within and challenged the gender roles of their time periods.

The Women of Walney Walking Tour will begin on March 11 at 2:00 p.m. and on March 19 at 11:00 a.m. This program for participants age six to adult costs \$6 per person.

[Women of Walney Walking Tour](#) [REGISTER](#)

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is located at 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly, VA. For more information, call 703-631-0013 or visit [Ellanor C. Lawrence Park](#).

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## Who We Are Now: The Demographics of Fairfax County



This is **who we are in Fairfax County**, based on our most recent demographics report:

There are **1,131,886 of us**:

- 402,362 households living in 413,746 homes.

Our **median household income is \$113,208**:

- 29,051 of our households have incomes of less than \$25,000
- 82,342 of our households have incomes of \$200,000+

(It is important to note that while we are one of the wealthiest by income counties in the country, there is no county income tax.)

### **New Interactive Data Feature:**

“We’ve created interactive data visualizations that allow you to explore our demographic data by various geographies and characteristics,” says Anne Cahill, the county’s demographer. “By putting open data into interactive data visualizations, it is easier for you to see patterns and understand the information better than in other formats.”

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The nine interactive profiles available to date include community profiles, occupations, languages spoken at home and immigrants.

[Explore Interactive Data](#)

## 2016 Demographics Report:

Our latest annual demographics report is now available with a wide range of information on our diversity, employment, education and future projections, too.

For example, here is a **projection of where our population growth will be in the county through 2045:**

### Three key trends from the report:

**Home Values:** In January 2016, the median market value of owned housing in Fairfax County reached \$498,341, an increase of 1.3 percent from the year before (Note: market values are different than [real estate assessments](#)).

**Housing Growth:** Our community added more than 1,500 housing units during 2016. Strong development activity is being seen in the Silver Line Metro corridor and the majority of units being built are multifamily units. A third of these new housing units are located in low-rise multifamily buildings (under five stories) and almost an additional third are in high-rise buildings (nine stories or higher).

**Housing Forecast:** Through 2045, it is expected that the county will add an additional 133,600 housing units and that multifamily units will comprise 85 percent of those built.

### Read Full Demographics Report:

The information, broken down by supervisor districts, towns, planning districts, human services regions, zip codes and census tracts, can be used by county government, businesses, organizations and others for a variety of purposes such as planning for future infrastructure and economic development, program and service planning, budgeting and more.

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## CSB Community Dialogues: Let's Talk!



The [Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board](#) served over 22,000 individuals in FY 2016. Staff and community partners provided treatment or services for mental health and substance use concerns, supports to help people with developmental disabilities and early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays. By using innovative, evidence-based practices, the CSB provides high quality services and meets the needs for people in our community who need supports 24/7.

The vision of the CSB is that **everyone** in our community should have the support needed to live a healthy, fulfilling life.

All residents of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church can access [CSB emergency services](#); [entry and referral services](#); and [wellness, health promotion and prevention services](#). All families with children up to age three who have developmental delays and meet [certain eligibility](#) requirements can access [Infant and Toddler Connection](#) services.

For most other, non-emergency CSB services, there are eligibility requirements so that people who most need the services are able to access them. For example, for substance use disorder services, [women and girls](#)

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[who are pregnant](#), intravenous drug users, and people asking for treatment for abuse of [heroin and other opioid drugs](#) have priority. The CSB is guided by [detailed criteria](#) regarding who has priority access to services; services are primarily for people whose conditions seriously impact their daily functioning. Many of CSB's priority eligibility requirements are set by state or federal law.

The CSB is taking a fresh look at how they decide which groups have priority eligibility and access to our non-emergency services.

Here are some of the reasons they are taking another look at their guidelines:

- A heroin and opioid addiction crisis is sweeping our nation and our community. CSB is expanding access to treatment and supports for people seeking recovery. More people are seeking CSB services, including youth and families who can now walk in, without prior appointment, to the [CSB's Merrifield Center](#) and speak with a staff member, rather than having to initiate contact over the phone.
  - In the wake of a statewide redesign of Medicaid waiver services, the CSB are helping hundreds of newly eligible people with developmental disabilities get needed supports and services.
  - They are providing alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorders, or developmental disabilities who commit low-level offenses and need treatment and supports, not jail.
  - There is a community gap in access to behavioral healthcare services for our youth and adults. The CSB wants to hear about ways they can partner to fill that gap.
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Your opinions will help them shape the future as they continue to evolve their services and meet the urgent demands.

CSB is holding a series of community dialogues:

- **Tuesday, March 14, 2017**  
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.  
Gartlan Center, 8119 Holland Road, Alexandria, VA 22306
- **Wednesday, March 29, 2017**  
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.  
[Merrifield Center](#), 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Fairfax,  
VA 22031

If you are unable to attend, you can [share your thoughts via email](#) or call our CSB public affairs line at 703-324-7006.

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For information, call 703-324-7006, TTY 711.

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## Thriving Family Summit



The Thriving Family Summit is a multi-church partnership to make Northern Virginia a place where all youth and families are thriving! The coalition was built to develop resilient families and youth, and reduce the tragic trends of family breakdown, alcohol abuse, drug use and overdoses, anxiety, depression, and suicide plaguing our community. If you are a parent or teenager in Northern Virginia, this event is for you!

The Thriving Family Summit vision began with a tragic drug overdose and death of a local teenager and a local church offering to host her memorial service. In response, local church and Fairfax County leaders gathered together to identify some specific actions to deepen awareness of the growing teen trends of broken families, drug addiction, anxiety, depression, and suicide, and how to make resources better known and accessible. The Thriving Family Summit is a first step in bringing awareness, resources, and real hope to engage challenging issues plaguing our community.

The Thriving Family Summit a free community event sponsored by the western Fairfax Church Coalition and One Heart DC in partnership with Fairfax County. The event will be held at the campus of Korean Central and Christ Central Presbyterian Churches in Centreville (15451 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA) on **Saturday, March 11 from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m.**, and will include expert speakers and resource tables on these critical topics.

For more information about this event, please visit their website at <http://thrivingfamilysummit.com/>.

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## Protecting Yourself During Tax Season

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April 15 is a day synonymous with Americans as Tax Day. While the date holds a stigma as a day most consumers do not look forward to, to some it may mean receiving that much anticipated refund. Perhaps you are planning on using your refund to recuperate from holiday spending, pay an outstanding medical bill, put a down payment on a new vehicle, or add some extra cash to your vacation fund. But what would happen if you went to file your taxes to obtain that refund, and you found out someone else beat you to it? Someone who stole your identity to defraud the government and claim your refund?

It is more common than you would imagine! In fact, according to fraud.org, in 2015, this type of fraud affected nearly a quarter million Americans. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) stated thieves using fraudulent tax and wage information to defraud the government is the fastest-growing type of identity theft. That statistic is substantiated with the comparison of the 2015 and 2016 Better Business Bureau list of top ten scams. According to the Better Business Bureau, tax scams ranked number one both years; in 2015 with 2,413 reports, and 2016 with 7,530 reports. The number of reports for tax scams more than tripled in one year! The National Consumers League estimates between 2011 and 2014, "identity thieves claimed \$23 billion in fraudulent tax refunds; money that was supposed to go to legitimate taxpayers, but instead ended up in criminals' pockets."

The National Consumers League outlines how it works: scammers find out your personal information that is required to file a tax return - simply your name, social security number, and date of birth. They then falsify a W-2 form, file the return, and

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illegally collect the refund. Consumers often do not discover they were victims of this crime until they attempt to file their own legitimate tax return. Once filed, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will send a notice to the victim stating someone else already filed in their name.

Fortunately, the National Consumers League and other resources compiled steps consumers can take that may help reduce the risk of tax fraud. Here is how:

1. File early in the tax season before thieves even have the chance to take advantage.
2. Use a secure internet connection if filing electronically. This means do not use unsecure, publically available Wi-Fi hotspots at places like coffee shops or hotel lobbies.
3. If you do not usually file online, mail your tax return directly from the post office. This makes it more difficult for thieves to get their hands on your personal information.
4. Remember, if the IRS needs to contact you, they will do so first by mail. The IRS will not call you to say you owe taxes. They will not contact you by email, text, or social media. The IRS will not ask you to make payment over the phone with a credit card, with a gift card, prepaid debit card, or wire transfer. Even if you receive a phone call from a caller that holds a portion of your social security number, be skeptical. You can always call the IRS directly to confirm communication.
5. Do not give out your social security number unless absolutely necessary. Always ask why it is needed, how it will be used, and how it will be stored.
6. Shred old tax returns you are no longer required to keep. The rule of thumb is generally to retain the previous three years.
7. Research tax preparers thoroughly before you commit to one and turn your personal information over to them.
8. Routinely check the status of your refund on the IRS webpage.

If you think your identity has been stolen, call the IRS Identity Theft Specialized Unit at 800-908-4490. Report the fraud and ask for the IRS ID Theft Affidavit Form 14039. If

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you are a tax identity theft victim, the IRS may give you a personal PIN number to verify your identity and protect your file going forward.

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## Volunteer Opportunity in Sully



Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) at 4511 Daly Drive, Suite J, Chantilly, VA seeks individuals to volunteer for the following:

- Volunteer(s) to clean office and bathroom, Tuesday or Thursday, either 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. or 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.
  - Volunteer(s) to answer phones and schedule appointments, Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Requirements: good phone skills, personable, able to conduct pantry tours. Interview and completed application required.
  - Volunteer(s) for Client Services Intake, Monday and Friday, 9:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Requirements: Spanish speakers preferred, ability to
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work with clients, able to conduct pantry tours. Interview and completed application required.

- Volunteer for Food Pantry, bagging clients' food choices, Thursday, 10:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Requirements: must be able to stand for long periods of time and lift at least 25 pounds. Interview and completed application required.

For more information, please visit the WFCM website at

<http://wfcmbva.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer-program/>.

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