

<u>September 18, 2020</u>

A Message from Kathy Smith

L'Shana Tova to all who are celebrating!

Early voting for the November 3, 2020 election begins today at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA). More information is below.

The drug take-back box at the Sully Governmental Center (4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA) is now available for use. This permanent dropbox will take unused or expired medications any time of the year. Please note that liquids, inhalers, aerosols, needles, and syringes are **not** accepted. For additional information about how to safely dispose of unused or expired medications, click here.

Early Voting Begins Today, September 18, 2020:

- Early voting begins Friday, September 18, at the Fairfax County Government Center from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Voting will also be available on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 19, October 17, October 24, and October 31, 2020. An additional 13 early voting locations (satellite locations) will open on October 14, 2020. Currently, the voting hours at these locations will be from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The last day to vote early is Saturday, October 31, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
- Any registered Fairfax County voter can vote early, and can cast their ballot at any early voting site.
- A new state law has taken effect stating that you may now use a copy of your current
 utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government
 document with the voter's name and address as ID. A photo ID, like a driver's license,
 is no longer required.
- Photo IDs remain an acceptable form of identification and you can even use an expired Virginia driver's license no matter how long ago it expired.
- For more information, <u>click here</u> or contact the Fairfax County <u>Office of Elections</u> at 703-222-0776, TTY 711.

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Flu Season is Here!:

- Health experts urge everyone 6 months of age and older to get a flu shot every year. Flu
 vaccination will reduce symptoms that might be confused with those of COVID-19. And
 will help to prevent/reduce the number of illnesses, hospitalizations, and intensive care
 unit admissions from flu, which will help alleviate stress on the health care system.
- Flu vaccine is available now in the community, including at pharmacies, doctor's offices, and grocery stores. Most health insurance plans cover flu shots for free.
- The Fairfax County Health Department is offering flu shots for children and adults by appointment only at: <u>Joseph Willard Health Center</u>, <u>Mount Vernon District Office</u>, and <u>Herndon-Reston District Office</u>. To make an appointment for any of the locations, call 703-246-7100, TTY 711.
- For more information about how to fight the flu, click here.

FCPS - Update on Grab and Go Meal Distribution:

- Fairfax County Public Schools is offering ALL students a healthy breakfast and lunch at no cost through December 31, 2020. <u>Details</u>
- The grab and go meals are offered at several school sites and along bus routes throughout Fairfax County. Grab and Go Meal Sites and Bus Routes
- Changes to bus routes are posted on the website by 5:00 p.m. each day. <u>Bus Routes for</u> Food Distribution
- New: Breakfast and lunch meals for Saturdays and Sundays will be distributed at all sites and on bus routes every Friday.
- For more information, click here.

Free Fabric Available for Sewers Who Can Make and Donate Fabric Coverings:

- <u>Volunteer Fairfax</u> has donated fabric that is available for you to pick up and take home to make some face coverings. <u>Details</u>
- You can pick up fabric and drop off face coverings at Volunteer Fairfax, located in the Burkholder Building (10700 Page Avenue, Suite 101, Fairfax, VA) Monday-Thursday, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- If you cannot make it during those time, contact their Emergency Response Program Manager, Tejas Patel, to make other arrangements. Volunteer Fairfax can be reached at 703-246-3553, by email or online.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month:

- Join the <u>Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board</u>'s <u>Wellness</u>, <u>Health Promotion & Prevention</u> by taking part in actions, virtually and from a safe distance, that promote resiliency, provide support to loved ones, and stay connected. Details
- Explore the calendar of suggestions and <u>reach out to the prevention team</u> for more information about the activities suggested.
- If you or someone you know is having a difficult time or having thoughts of suicide, reach out and find hope. Contact <u>CrisisLink</u> to speak with someone. Call 703-527-4077 or text "CONNECT" to 855-11 any time, 24/7.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month:

- September is the American Library Association's annual Library Card Sign-up Month! <u>Details</u>
- <u>Click here</u> to register for a card, learn all about the benefits of your library account, search the library catalog, and discover services available during COVID-19.
- For more information, including library card eligibility, <u>click here</u>.

Sincerely.

Kally

Transportation News



Fairfax County Encourages Drivers to Go Car Free Safely on Sept. 22:

- Fairfax County is partnering with the <u>Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments</u> and other local jurisdictions in asking commuters who normally drive alone to go car free on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. County residents who take the <u>Car Free Pledge</u> are eligible for special raffle prizes.
- The annual <u>Car Free Day</u> is organized in 46 countries around the world, with the common goal of reducing the number of cars on the roads to alleviate traffic congestion and improve air quality.
- Residents are encouraged to take transit, rideshare, bike, or walk instead of driving alone. For those who can work from home, telework also counts.
- For more information, and to learn how to go Car Free safely, <u>click here</u>.

Reminder! Braddock Road and Old Lee Road Safety and Operational Improvements Study:

- VDOT will hold a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. <u>Details</u>
- Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting will be posted on the <u>project website</u>.
- The VDOT project team will make a presentation involving improvements at the intersection of Braddock Road and Old Lee Road, and the S-curve on Braddock Road between Pleasant Valley Road and Old Lee Road beginning at 7:00 p.m. and going until 8:30 p.m.
- Submit your written comments by October 12, 2020 via the project website, by mail to Mr. Andrew Beacher, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or email. Please reference "Braddock Road and Old Lee Road Safety and Operational Improvements Study" in the subject line.

Coronavirus Column

Important reminders to keep yourself and others safe:



Recent Headlines:

- What to Know if You or a Family Member is Returning Home from a Campus COVID-19
 Outbreak
- Board of Supervisors Approves Additional \$12 Million for Fairfax RISE Grant Program
- People Fighting the Pandemic in Fairfax: Shakiba Kovacs, Community Health Worker

FREE COVID-19 Testing Offered Every Tuesday:

- In partnership with the Centreville Labor Resource Center, Healthworks for Northern Virginia is offering FREE COVID-19 testing every Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for walk-ins and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by appointment only. Location: 5944 Centreville Crest Lane, Centreville, VA.
- **Testing is available to everyone**, and you do not need to have symptoms to request a test.
- To make an appointment call 703-443-2000, select option #1.

Ways to Stay Informed:

- Call our Health Department Call Center at 703-267-3511 with Coronavirus questions; open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.
- Text FFXCOVID to 888777 to receive updates from Fairfax County about COVID-19.
- Email questions or concerns to ffxcovid@fairfaxcounty.gov. This email account is staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. through 6 p.m.
- Visit a <u>web portal for coronavirus</u> that serves as a one-stop online resource for information.

The Green Column

Video: Wastewater Testing Protects Residents and Environment



Animal Shelter Corner



<u>Meet Wicket!</u>

Wicket is a great name for this fuzzy, cute, friendly cat!!! She's SO affectionate and loves to be petted. Since she's a senior cat, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter performed their Senior Cat Health Program package (bloodwork and urinalysis) and Wicket came back looking great with no issues! She just needs a loving person to adopt her now. Let's get this nice senior gal a home!!!!!!!

If you'd like to adopt Wicket, send in a completed adoption questionnaire. All adoption info, steps, and forms can be found online.

Reminders!

2020 Census:

Enumerators (census takers) will be visiting households that have not yet responded to help collect Census information in a fast, safe, and confidential way. Field data collection will end on September 30, 2020. Households can still complete the 2020 Census online, by phone at 844-330-2020 (TTY 711) or by completing the paper survey received in the mail. The Census Bureau does not disclose any personal information. Details

Stuff the Bus Event:

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need for food in our area, so Stuff the Bus is working to respond to the demand. On **Saturday, September 26**, Fastran buses will be parked at the 21 locations from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** to collect food donations. Details

Sully Locations:

- Centreville Regional Library (14200 Saint Germain Drive, Centreville, VA 20121)
- Sully Governmental Center (4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151)

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD) to Host Virtual Open House:

FCFRD will host several fun, interactive activities, and virtual events throughout Fire Prevention Week **beginning Monday, October 5, 2020.** <u>Details</u>. A virtual open house will highlight the week and occur throughout the day on Saturday, October 10, 2020 on FCFRD social and digital platforms. Register online to be eligible for daily prizes, perks, and to enjoy our specially prepared weekly selections! Register here: Virtual Fire Prevention Week 2020.

Low-Cost Rabies Clinics:

The Department of Animal Sheltering will host three curbside, no contact, <u>low-cost rabies</u> vaccination clinics:

- Cats and Ferrets: Sunday, October 18 and Sunday, December 6, 2020 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on all dates at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030).
- **Dogs:** Sunday, October 18 and Sunday, December 6, 2020 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on all dates at Pender Veterinary Centre (4001 Legato Road, Fairfax, VA 22033).

Pre-registration is required! Cost is \$20 per vaccination, exact cash or check only. This is a drive through clinic, and pet owners must remain in their car. Pet owners must wear a mask to receive services. For more info, click here.