



A message from Kathy Smith



An inauguration ceremony was held at the Government Center on December 16. Fifteen local officials were sworn-in, including myself, other members of the Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, Commonwealth's Attorney, and the Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. The newly elected Board of Supervisors (pictured above) will begin their four-year terms on January 1, 2020.

All county government offices will close early on Tuesday, December 24 in honor of the Christmas Eve holiday, and all county government offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 in honor of the Christmas Day holiday. My office will reopen on Thursday, December 26 at 8:00 a.m. I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday!

Sincerely,

Kathy

Reminders!

Fairfax Connector Reston-Herndon Bus Service Online Survey Extended to December 27, 2019:

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) has extended the Fairfax Connector Reston-Herndon bus service online survey **until December 27, 2019**. Residents may provide input on the service alternatives by completing the survey at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/herndon-reston-service-review>. Comments can also be mailed to FCDOT, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033.

WMATA - Public Feedback on Service Improvements on Blue, Orange & Silver Lines:

Metro recently released [several preliminary concepts](#) to improve reliability, meet future ridership demand, and better serve customers on the Blue, Orange, and Silver lines. The concepts, part of the two-year Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity and Reliability Study (BOS Study), include a range of infrastructure improvements and service alternatives to address both short- and long-term needs. The public is invited to provide input and suggest additional ideas for improvements through an [online survey](#). The survey is available in English and Spanish and will be **open through January 6, 2020**.

For more information about the Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity and Reliability Study, send an email to BOStudy@wmata.com.

Fairfax County Transportation Enhances Pedestrian Safety with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons



To enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety, Fairfax County is working with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to install nine new Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at targeted crosswalks around the county. The flashing yellow lights, when activated, indicate to drivers and bicyclists using the roadway to yield to those in the crosswalk before proceeding. RRFBs are a warning device for drivers.

Pedestrians still need to watch for approaching traffic even if the RRFB is activated.

The new beacons are a result of a \$1,263,000 grant through VDOT's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and funded by the the Federal Highway Authority's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The grant also includes other pedestrian safety improvements including refuge islands and a signalized crosswalk.

New RRFB Locations in the Sully District:

- Franklin Farm Road and Old Dairy Road
- Franklin Farm Road and Thorngate Drive

For more information on the RRFB program, visit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk/rffb>.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Save the Date! Rocks with Cops 2!



SAVE THE DATE:

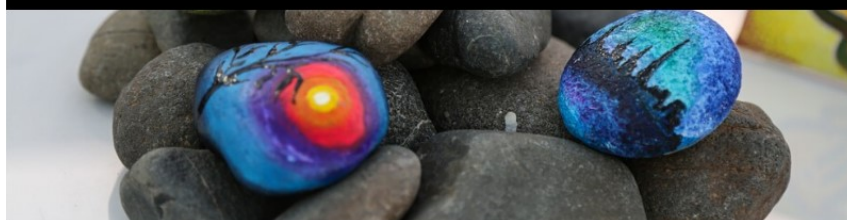
Rocks With Cops 2!

Saturday, January 18, 2020

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

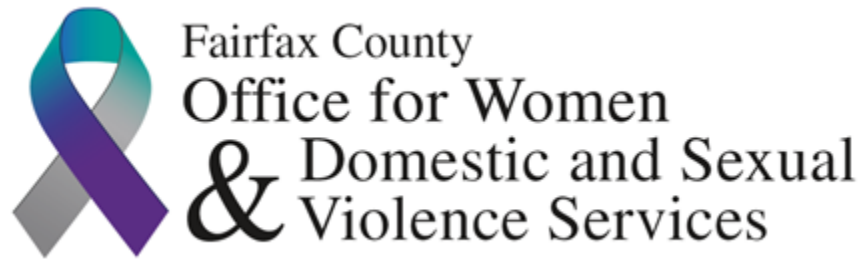
Sully District Community Room

Come paint rocks with the police!
This is a free event and all ages are welcome!



For more info and to RSVP: <http://bit.ly/rockswithcops2>

Volunteer Opportunity



Hotline Counselor

Provides crisis intervention and supportive counseling for those in domestic and/or sexual violence situations on a 24-hour hotline. Hotline volunteers also provide referrals to medical, legal, shelter, and social service support assistance. Minimum age to volunteer: 21. Time Commitment: Six hours per month for one year.

Location: The hotline is forwarded to your home or cell phone; you can receive calls at a convenient location.

Contact:

Nadia Hoonan, Volunteer Coordinator

703-324-9495

nadia.hoonan@fairfaxcounty.gov

Racial Equity Stakeholder Council Shares Key Insights



The Chairman’s Stakeholders Council on Race – a group composed of residents, staff and the civic, faith, nonprofit, philanthropic and business communities – has concluded its work and presented its findings to the [Board of Supervisors](#) at its December 3 meeting.

Report Highlights:

The council partnered with the **One Fairfax Community Roundtable** – a group of community leaders originally convened in 2015 to participate in the development of the [Equitable Growth Profile of Fairfax County](#) – and offered these key insights.

1. Race is a social construct and has no genetic basis. No one characteristic, trait or even gene distinguishes all the members of one so-called race from all the members of another so-called race. **Race isn’t biological, but racism is real.**
2. Racialized practices in government and social institutions have afforded **people differing access to opportunities** and resources.
3. **Colorblindness or pretending race does not exist will not end racism.** Racism is more than stereotypes and individual prejudice and must be addressed by identifying and remedying the social policies and institutional practices that advantage some groups at the expense of others.
4. Racism is like a **picture that looks different depending on the angle** from which you look at it.
5. Racism is **driven by fear of the other** and fear of loss.
6. Race is the **number one predictor of how well you’ll do in our society.** People of color have disproportionate exposure to adverse conditions – social, economic, environmental, etc.
7. **Geography has become a proxy for race** because of the history of housing segregation.
8. We have **inherited the structure of inequity** that exists in the county today, but we **do not have to maintain it.**
9. **One Fairfax has made it easier to talk about equity,** but it will be harder to talk about the actions that will get us there and what equity would actually look like in practice and in outcome.
10. In acknowledging the inherent challenges of striving to be an equitable community, the Stakeholders Council embraced a quote from tennis great Arthur Ashe: **“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”**

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Tips for Safe Shopping This Holiday Season



At 2.4 million square feet, Tysons Corner Center is one of the 10 largest malls in the U.S., and along with the Tysons Galleria, these two malls attract shoppers from across the country and the world.

However, its' also a destination for organized, retail crime rings during the holiday season. The Fairfax County Police have caught domestic and international thieves working at these two malls.

Wherever You Are Shopping This Holiday Season, Follow These Five Tips:

1. **Watch your wallet or purse.** It is common for thieves to sit behind you to rifle through your purse hanging on your chair. Thieves will then use these cards at nearby stores until they hit your credit limit, or your credit card company's fraud-detection algorithms stop the suspect purchases.
2. **Set up automatic credit card spending alerts.** This way you will be alerted immediately when your card is used, and you will know if it has been stolen or compromised.
3. **Watch your bags and be aware of your surroundings.** To help stay aware of what is going on around you, have a plan in mind when you go shopping so you know where you are going and what you intend to buy. Make your biggest ticket purchase the stop before you head home.
4. **Lock your car doors and keep valuables in the trunk.**
5. **Pick a well-lit parking spot.** Look for a well-lit spot and avoid dark, remote areas of the parking lot.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Fairfax County Farmers Markets Recruiting New Vendors

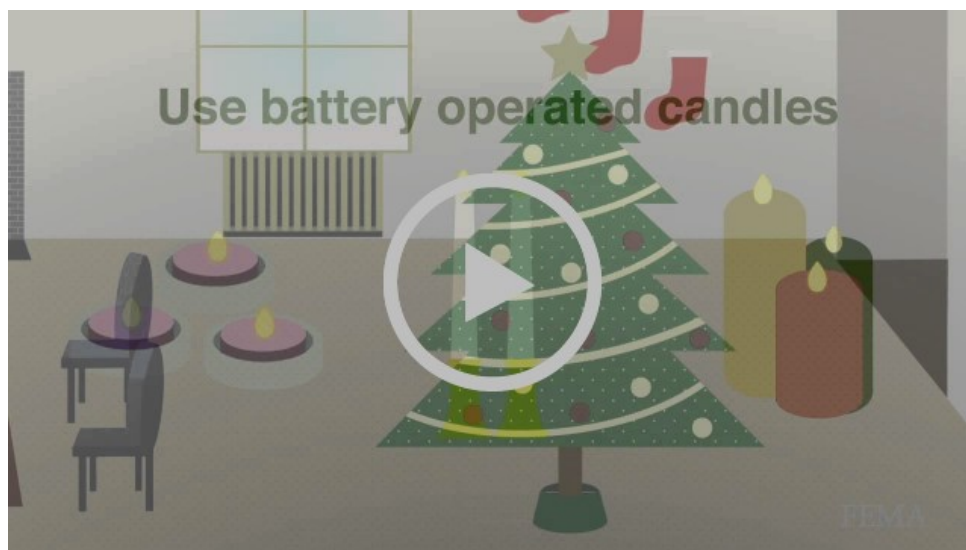


The Fairfax County Park Authority is ramping up for the 2020 season! We are now recruiting vendors with unique local, food-based products that will delight our customers. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Farmers Market Coordinator, [Julia Deupree](#).

The Park Authority operates 10 farmers markets across the county. By providing access to locally grown foods, our farmers market program strives to improve the health of Fairfax County residents, support local food producers, and protect the environment. Our markets are strictly producer-only, meaning that all our farmers and producers may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch. We highly encourage vendors to use local ingredients as much as possible. Our farmers and producers all come from within a 125-mile radius of Fairfax County.

For additional information, contact the Community Horticulture Office at 703-642-0128 or visit [Farmers Markets](#).

Video: Home Holiday Fire Facts



It is that wonderful time of year when there are many holiday celebrations occurring. Please take a moment to watch the video above about home holiday fires from our partners in safety at the [United States Fire Administration](#) and the [National Fire Protection Association](#).

- One of every four home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. On average, one of every 32 reported home Christmas tree fires results in a death compared to an average of one death per 143 total reported home fires.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes one in every four Christmas tree fires.
- The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day, and Christmas Eve.
- Candles start two out of five home decoration structure fires.

What are Public Street Rights-of-Way?



A public street right-of-way is publicly owned land that contains both the street and a strip of land on either side of the street that holds appurtenant facilities (sidewalks, sewers, storm drains, etc.). For further information or to request maintenance in a right-of-way, please contact the [Virginia Department of Transportation](http://www.vdot.gov) (VDOT) at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623) (TTY 711).

The Green Column



New Rain Garden to Replace Crumbling Fountain

As recently as 2013, a decorative fountain located on the Fairfax County Government Center campus shot jets of water 20 feet into the air during the warm months of the year. But, as often as not, the fountain was shut down for maintenance and repairs. The leaking pond often required resealing, and when the pump and chemical feeder failed, the stagnant pond filled with trash, leaves, and algae. The adjacent waterfall was fed through a circular pump that pulled water from the stormwater retention pond, but the pump clogged often and eventually stopped working altogether. The cost to fix the fountain ranged from \$75,000 to \$150,000 each time it malfunctioned, so some years the pool remained empty, which it has for the past six years. What had been a decorative amenity had become an eyesore and a financial liability. Something had to be done.

After a lot of input, the plan to build a rain garden amenity at the site was decided upon. The decision to convert the decaying fountain into a rain garden solved the funding problem - the stormwater management project would be paid for with Stormwater Service District fees.

The landscaped plaza will feature:

- Native plants
- Bioretention tree pits
- 15,000 gallon storage tank that will be used to collect rainwater flowing off the Herrity parking garage
- Bubbler fountain that will tap water from the underground cistern

The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services is managing design and construction of the fountain replacement project, with estimated completion in late 2020.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Animal Shelter Corner



Meet Callie!

Why should you adopt Callie? We're glad you asked! First, she's beautiful. Just look at the unique markings on this girl. Second, she's a loving, snuggly pup who wants nothing more than to be around her people. Third, even at 7 years old, she's very playful and loves chasing toys (although dropping them is not her strong point). Fourth, she's very smart and knows all of her basic obedience commands. Basically, she's awesome! But she's also a little anxious. Callie is a true hound dog and really loves to spend time outside just soaking up the sun. So when her family moved into an apartment, she didn't adjust very well to a small space with limited outside time. We would love to find Callie a home where she can have lots of time out and about, whether it be hanging out in the yard or going for long walks where she can explore and use that hound-y nose of hers! She doesn't really want to be cooped up all day, so the more activity the better! Are you an active person looking for a new BFF to accompany you on your exploits? Come visit Callie! For more information about Callie, contact the Fairfax County Animal Shelter at 703-830-1100 or send an email to AnimalShelter@fairfaxcounty.gov.
