

LY FOCUS

GOVERNMENT AND THE FALLS CHURCH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



JUNE 14-20, 2007

For more news about the Falls Church City Public Schools visit: www.fccps.org

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A Lesson in City Government

Falls Church City Manager Wyatt Shields is used to hearing from adult residents about ways to improve the city. Last week, a class full of 9 and 10-year-olds gave him some ideas during a question and answer session at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School.

The class cheered after one fourth grader declared, "We need a skateboard park!" Another student suggested, "How about an amusement park?" before changing his mind, "No wait, a water park!" One young lady suggested an animal shelter.

The city manager agreed the city needs more parks and explained that a tract of land behind the school will be converted into a park. The city government recently purchased the land for that purpose.

Shield's visit rounded out the fourth grade's year-long study of Virginia history, from the House of Burgesses first representative government-style meeting in Jamestown in 1619 to today's city council led government in Falls Church.

"Does anybody know who the Mayor is?" Shields asked. Nearly half of the students raised their hands. The one called on

for an answer correctly identified Robin Gardner while another added, "She's my neighbor."

In addition to explaining the role city taxes play in providing public safety protection, Shields described the delicate balancing act of planning for future growth. "We want our neighborhoods to be quiet and peaceful, and our business districts to be full of energy."



Falls Church City Manager, Wyatt Shields talks to fourth graders at Thomas Jefferson about the role of city government in their lives.

FCC-TV Spotlight: Jazz Cardio Strength Stretch

Tune in to Falls Church Community Television (FCC-TV) to watch *Jazz Cardio Strength Stretch*, a public access program produced by Jazzercise. This program gets your blood pumping through a cardio warm up, then moves on to muscle toning during the strength segment, and at the end of class, lets you unwind with some cool-down stretches. This program airs every weekday morning at 8:00 am. Now you have no excuse not to get moving every morning!



FCC-TV airs on Cox Channel 12, Verizon Channel 35 and Starpower/RCN Channel 2. For a complete schedule of the variety of community programs on FCC-TV, visit www.fctv.net.

Snap Codes are Coming!

Parents of returning FCCPS students should keep an eye on their mailboxes next week. That's when they'll receive the "keys" to registering their children for the coming school year.

The "keys" are "snap codes" or unique identifying numbers that allow parents to log into the school division's Infosnap database and update their children's registration information for the coming school year. The secure network allows parents to input the information at a time that's convenient for them, and it enables the school staff to manage the information more efficiently.

Parents of returning students are asked to update the information as soon as possible. The sooner the staff gets the info, the better prepared they can be to get students off to a good start in the fall!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

June

- 14** 5:00 PM Graduation (DAR Constitution Hall)
- 15** Last Day of School
- 18** Professional Day
7:30 PM Band Booster Meeting (GM)
- 22** Final Report Cards Issued
- 26** 7:30 PM School Board Meeting (City Hall)

(MD) Mt. Daniel Elementary
(TJ) Thomas Jefferson Elementary
(MEH) Mary Ellen Henderson Middle
(GM) George Mason High

Check the FCCPS Web site for more calendar information.
www.fccps.org



BIE Partner of the Week Donna Englander Falls Church Education Foundation

School Involvement: Works closely with FCCPS administrators and staff on many initiatives including Wilden Afterschool Project, the new Environmental Education initiative, student scholarships, and teacher grants; serves on BIE Advisory Committee; reads to students during Drop Everything and Read Day and Read Across America Week; volunteers for Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School Field Day.

Why Donna is a BIE Partner: "By helping to bring supplemental resources to the schools for a wide variety of programs, our students can be better prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century. It's especially gratifying to work with FCCPS faculty and donors to find ways to connect special gifts with opportunities that our students would not normally have. Every day, our community of residents and businesses demonstrate that education is truly at the heart of our community through their generous contributions."

For more information about sharing your expertise through the BIE Partnership, visit www.fccps.org or contact Marybeth Connelly at connellym@fccps.org.



Businesses Help Make Graduation Special

The George Mason High School 2007 All Night Graduation Celebration Committee and the BIE thank the following businesses and community members for their contributions to tonight's celebration. A special thank-you goes to the Skyline Sport & Health Club for hosting the event. (Donations received after June 7 will be recognized at a later date.)

Applebee's; Argia's; Arlington Co. Bar Assn.; Art and Frame of Falls Church (F.C.); Baja Fresh; Beyond the Garden Gate; Bland Mgmt.-McDonald's; Bonnie Blair Productions, LLC; Boulevard Haircuts; Dr. Lawrence Banker; Dr. Lois Berlin; Dr. Scott Berman; Bistro des Celestins; Elizabeth Blystone; Brown's Hardware; Chef Express; Costco; Zachary Cotner; Barbara Cram; Design Frames; Diagnostic & Educational

Resources; Diener and Assoc.; Direct Jewelry Outlet; Dominion Jewelers; James Dryden DDS; Elevation Burger; Eli's Salon; EMW Properties, Inc.; F.C. Animal Hospital; F.C. Education Assn.; F.C. Education Foundation; F.C. Florist; F.C. Lions Club; F.C. Police Assn.; F.C. City Sunoco; Irwin Feldman, DDS; First Horizon Bank; Impulsive; Ireland's Four Provinces; Foxes Music; Ralph Gallimore; Giant Food; Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital; Great American Restaurants; Harris Teeter; Holly Harvey; Hurt Cleaners; J.R.'s Stockyard Inn; Kings Dominion; Korte Realty; Ledo Pizza; L.F. Jennings; Drs. Love & Miller; McGuire Appliances; Maggiano's; Maneki Neko; Metro 29 Diner; Milan Bakers and Miss Donut; Murray, Jonson, White & Assoc.; Nash Hair Design; Needham, Mitnick & Pollack, PLC; No. Va.

Tutoring; Old Hickory Grill; Original House of Pancakes; Papa John's; Perfect Endings; Point of View Eyewear; Potomac Nationals; Quizno's; Ragland & Slugg; Red, Hot & Blue BBQ; Robeks; Leslie Rye; Safeway; 7-Eleven; Shoppers Food Warehouse; Shreve McGonegal; Sign of the Whale; Dr. Michael Silveus; Simply Success; Six Flags; Edie & Tom Smolinski; Stacy's Coffee Parlor; Staples; Subway; Target; Temple Rodef Shalom Sisterhood; TGIFridays; Trader Joe's; Susan VanGelder; Va. Commerce Bank; Vocelli; Washington Redskins; Wegmans; Whole Foods; Wu's Garden; Yellow Cab; The Young Group, Inc.

School content published in *The Weekly Focus* is written and edited by the Falls Church City Public Schools. For more information, contact the Falls Church City Public Schools Communications Office. Phone: (703) 248-5699 Fax: (703) 248-5613.