

LY FOCUS

GOVERNMENT AND THE FALLS CHURCH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



JUNE 28-JULY 4, 2007

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

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Smithsonian Folklife Festival Features Falls Church City's Storied Past

City of Falls Church history and culture dating back to 1699 will be featured for one day at the 2007 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Members of the City's Virginia 2007 Committee will represent the City in the Family and Community section of the "Roots of Virginia Culture" exhibition on Sunday, July 1, 2007 from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Others in the Family and Community section include professional genealogists who specialize in tracing ancestry from England, Africa, and Virginia, and representatives from Kent, England sharing the English perspective. Virginia's musical roots are also being celebrated at the Festival. The City's own hometown favorite Andrew Acosta and the New Old Time String Band and Arlington's famous fiddler Speedy Tolliver will be playing together on the National Mall (Tudor Rose Stage) on Friday, June 29 at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

The City is one of more than 180 communities participating in the celebration and commemoration of the settlement of Jamestown and its continuing legacy as part of America's 400th Anniversary. Legacy efforts in the City were undertaken

by the City's Virginia 2007 Committee, which was established in 2005 by City Council proclamation, and is chaired by Greater Falls Church Chamber of Commerce member Barbara Cram.

In addition to assistance provided by City government, numerous community groups have worked with the Committee, including: The Greater Falls Church Chamber of Commerce, The Village Preservation and Improvement Society, The Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation, The Victorian Society at Falls Church, FIRSTfriday, Falls Church Arts, Taste of Falls Church, Garden Clubs of Virginia, Dave Eckert and Virginia Village Productions, and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

For more information about the Folklife Festival, visit www.folklife.si.edu.

Cooling Assistance Program Applications Accepted Through Aug. 15

Eligible low-income residents in the City of Falls Church are invited to participate in the Cooling Assistance Program. The program is designed to help residents keep their homes cool this summer and prevent a health emergency resulting from extreme heat.

The federal program is administered locally by the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, with which the City contracts to provide services to Falls Church City residents.

The Cooling Assistance program helps eligible low-income households with:

- The purchase, replacement, and installation of an air conditioner unit
- Repairs to a central air conditioner unit or heat pump
- Payment of an electric utility security deposit

- Payment of electric bills to operate cooling equipment

To be eligible for any type of Cooling Assistance, certain income and citizenship criteria must be met. In addition, you must have a vulnerable person living in your household: a child under six years of age, an adult over 60 years old, or anyone receiving SSI or SSA as 100 percent disabled.

Residents can download the application at www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/cooling/index.html or pick one up at the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, located at 6245 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church (Tel: 703-533-5300, TTY 703-533-5316). Those requiring assistance in completing the application may contact the City's Housing and Human Services Division at 703-248-5005 (TTY 711).

Only 2 Days Left to Take the Library Patron Survey

The Mary Riley Styles Public Library is conducting its annual user survey and wants to know what you think about its services, materials, staff and more!

The Library mailed 550 surveys to randomly selected City residents. If you have not received a survey but would like to voice your opinion, you may do so in person at the Library (120 N. Virginia Ave.) or online (www.falls-church.lib.va.us). The survey ends June 30 and results will be tallied and posted shortly thereafter on the Library's bulletin board and Web site.

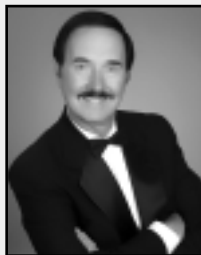
The survey allows staff to gauge how well they are providing services and resources, and to learn patrons' concerns so they can be addressed.

For more information, call 703-248-5030 (TTY 711).



FCC-TV Spotlight: Dick Dyszel Las Vegas Style Hypnotist Show

Tune in to Falls Church Community Television (FCC-TV) to watch *Dick Dyszel's Las Vegas Style Stage Hypnotist Show*. For the first time anywhere, Dick Dyszel, TV's Captain 20 and Count Gore DeVol, brings his new career as a stage hypnotist to the FCC-TV studio with a Las Vegas-style hypnosis show. The show will air throughout the month of July at the following times:



- Mondays at 11:00 a.m. • Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.
- Thursdays at 9:00 p.m. • Sundays at noon.

FCC-TV airs on Cox Channel 12, RCN Channel 2 and Verizon Channel 35. For more information about FCC-TV, or for a complete FCC-TV programming schedule FCC-TV, visit www.fccvtv.net or call 703-248-5538.



BIE Partner of the Week Bob Morrison Bonnie Briar Productions LLC

School Involvement: Takes photographs at George Mason High School, including the senior class photo, graduation photos, and photos of sporting events. Donates large prints for the athletic Training Room, GMHS reception area, and FCCPS Central Office.

Why Bob is a BIE partner: "As a longtime supporter of our schools, I am delighted to be able to share my photography skills. I respect and admire the talents of our students in athletics, art, theater, music and more, and photography lets me capture and share some of their significant moments of achievement."

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



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.

IB Turns XXV

George Mason High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, the first in the Virginia and a model for similar programs in school systems across the country, is celebrating its 25th year. The Virginia General Assembly recognized the milestone with a legislative certificate presented by Senator Mary Margaret Whipple during a recent Falls Church City School Board meeting.

George Mason was authorized as an IB school in 1981, and each year an average of 70 percent of all juniors and seniors participate in the rigorous course of study. The IB curriculum is so challenging, fewer than 30 percent of seniors are likely to earn a full IB diploma.

To do so the student must successfully complete courses and exams in six different subject areas, participate in a Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) program and the "Theory of Knowledge" course, and write and submit a final extended essay similar to a college thesis.

IB classes are based on internationally established syllabi and comprise a holistic philosophy of learning that seeks to address the intellectual, philosophical and social development of the student.

More information on the George Mason IB program can be found at www.fccps.org/gm/.



George Mason High School Seniors participate in graduation exercises at DAR Constitution Hall. Many were participants in the school's acclaimed International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. Those who successfully completed the requirements for the full IB diploma will be recognized for that achievement in the fall. (photo by Bob Morrison, Bonnie Briar Productions LLC)

SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

July	
2	7:30 PM School Board Organizational Meeting (MEH)
4	Independence Day – (Admin Offices Closed/Day Care Closed)
9	Summer School Begins (GM)
10	7:30 PM School Board Meeting (City Hall)
16	7:00 PM School Board work session (MEH)
24	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

2007 - 2008 School Calendar Available

It's never too early to think ahead to next year. The first day of school for students will be Tuesday, Sept. 4. Winter break is scheduled for Dec. 24 through Jan. 1 (school will reopen on Jan. 2). Spring Break will be Mar. 17 – 21 (school resumes on March 24). The last day of school for students will be Thursday June 12 for seniors and June 13, 2008 for all other students. View the full calendar at www.fccps.org.