

HOT FLASHES

Fairfax County Retired Employees Association

May 2018

Chairman's Message

The first meeting in FCREA's Silver Sneakers program, "Boosting Your Brain Power," was well-attended. Many thanks to LiveWell for sponsoring it and to the Credit Union for letting us use their meeting room! If you weren't able to attend this kick-off event, keep an eye out for the next one in a few months' time.



May is always a busy month for us retirees! Our Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, May 2nd at 10 AM. Last year's new location proved to be very popular, so we will be meeting in the meeting room at the credit union's main branch again this year, 4201 Members Way, Fairfax, *NOT the Government Center!* Invited speakers include a representative from Management and Budget; John Yeatman, the retirees' member on the Board of Trustees for the Employees Retirement System; representatives from the Department of Human Resources and the Retirement Administration Agency; and Joe Thomas, President/CEO of Fairfax County Federal Credit Union. Come hear what our July cost-of-living increase will be! We also will be voting on a change in the dues structure and hopefully recruiting some new members on the Board of Directors.

The annual Senior Information Fair will be held on Wednesday, May 16th, 10 AM – 2 PM, at the American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. Representatives of County agencies and local vendors will be there to share useful information, and we will have a variety of free health screenings, as well. This annual event is open to everyone, so invite your family, friends and neighbors to take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to learn more about organizations and programs of interest to seniors.

There will be no Keep-in-Touch (KIT) luncheon on May 16th, but you can get a delicious bite to eat at the Legion for a very reasonable cost.

Dolores Testerman has been our “Sunshine” lady for many years. Sadly, vision problems are forcing her to pass this responsibility over to someone else. Dolores, on behalf of all retirees, I thank you for your many years of faithful service. Joyce Gerhart, the FCREA Vice Chairman will now also chair the Sunshine Committee. FCREA retirees are encouraged to forward any news concerning retirees who are ill and/or have passed away to Joyce (see below for Joyce's contact information.)

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the annual meeting on May 2rd, the Senior Information Fair on May 16th, and the next KIT luncheon at Glory Days Grill on June 20th!

Sincerely,

Pam Martin, Chairman
Fairfax County Retired Employees Association

Bryan Hill Appointed County Executive

In November 2017, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed Bryan Hill as county executive, effective Jan. 2, 2018. Hill was the James City County, Va., administrator and clerk to its Board of Supervisors. He replaced Edward L. Long, who retired in September. Kirk Kincannon served as acting county executive in the interim.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova noted Hill's impressive leadership, management, communications and budget experience, and expressed the Board's confidence that Hill will continue to build upon a foundation of excellence for both the workforce and county residents.

Hill had been with James City County since 2014, and he previously spent seven years with Beaufort County, S.C. as deputy county administrator.

At James City County, Hill was responsible for oversight of staff, major infrastructure projects, economic development, transportation initiatives and the development and implementation of the county's first strategic plan. He recently led the realignment of the county's debt portfolio, which resulted in AAA ratings from each of the three major bond rating agencies.



Hill also previously served as the vice chancellor for finance and operations at the University of South Carolina's Beaufort/Bluffton Campus, and as the director of finance for the University of Maryland's Office of Information and Technology as well as director of administration for the Department of Aerospace Engineering.

Hill is the recipient of an award for academic excellence from the American Association of Budget and Program Analysts, and while at the University of Maryland, he earned the A. James Clark School of Engineering Staff Award and a commendation from the Department of Aerospace Engineering at its 50th anniversary celebration.

He has a bachelor's degree in public administration from Alfred University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. Hill will receive an annual salary of \$250,000.

New Medicare Cards start Mailing in April 2018

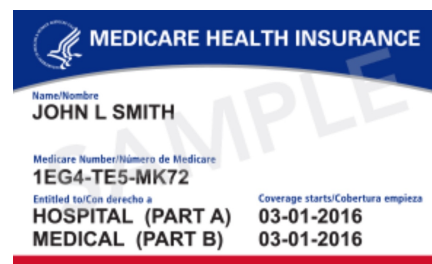
Beginning April 2018, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is removing Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards and replacing it with a new Medicare Number. Each person with Medicare will get their own randomly-generated Medicare Number. The Medicare Number will be 11 characters long, contains numbers and uppercase letters, and will be unique to each person with Medicare. This change will help protect the identity of people with Medicare. Click here for a sample: [CMS Medicare](#)

New Medicare ID Cards

People with Medicare don't need to do anything to get their new card. CMS automatically will mail Medicare cards with the new Medicare Number to all Medicare recipients people between April 2018 and April 2019. According to the CMS website, cards for Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia participants will be mailed out April – June 2018.

To make sure Medicare has your current address you can contact Social Security at ssa.gov/myaccount or 800.772.1213. TTY users can call 800.325.0778.

There will be no changes to Cigna/Cigna-HealthSpring issued ID cards. Customers should keep and continue to use their Cigna/Cigna-HealthSpring issued ID card as



they normally do.

Please Note:

This change means that FC Retirees who are Medicare participants will have to provide the FCG Benefits Office with copies of their new cards so that our records and those of Cigna and Kaiser can be updated to match CMS. The Benefits Office will send out postcard reminders quarterly over the next year to remind retirees to send in copies of their cards.

Please send a copy of your new card to the FCG Benefits Division, to the attention of Agnetta Palacios as soon as you receive it. This can be done by mail, fax or e-mailed to Agnetta.Palacios@fairfaxcounty.gov. The mailing address is 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 270, Fairfax, VA 22035 or fax to 703-802-8795. If you provide a phone number or e-mail address Agnetta will confirm the receipt of your new card.

Volunteer Opportunities

Election Officers Needed!



Election Officers Needed!

Fairfax County needs Election Officers

for upcoming 2018 elections. Election Officers must be registered voters in Virginia and complete required training and forms. You may choose to accept the \$175 stipend for a full day, or volunteer your time. [Training begins in April.](#)

View the [“Being an Election Officer”](#) Video on YouTube and listen to the [“Need for Election Officers”](#) Podcast on SoundCloud

To apply fill and submit the [online form](#). For more information, visit the [Office of Elections website](#) or call 703-324-4735, TTY 711.

R. Kurt Mockenhaupt

Election Officer Recruiter

Office of Elections County of Fairfax, Virginia

Direct: 703.324.4811 Division: 703-324-4735

Facsimile: 703.324.4706

richard.mockenhaupt@fairfaxcounty.gov

Do you love children and feel comfortable in a classroom?

Volunteers are needed to facilitate the “Speak Up, Be Safe” curriculum in Fairfax County elementary schools. The program focuses on child safety and child abuse prevention. It aims at empowering children in case they are threatened or victimized. Facilitators will be required to complete background checks, be trained and commit to one year facilitating 4 – two-hour, weekday classes per month. Contact Cecilia Tatis at 703-324-7459 or email [Cecilia Tatis](mailto:Cecilia.Tatis@fairfaxcounty.gov) at Cecilia.tatis@fairfaxcounty.gov to volunteer or find out more.

Body Safety Program training date: June 29 , 2018 from 8:30 -4:30.

NV Rides Presents... Safe Driving as You Age

NV Rides will host a FREE morning of workshops offering tips and best practices to help you stay on the road safely, and for as long as possible.

Workshop highlights will include:

- Steps you can take to ensure safety
- Using technology to find transportation
- Tips on keeping your body and mind healthy
- How to help your non-driving neighbors
- Securing safe and reliable transportation after you stop driving

A light lunch will be provided.

If you plan to stay for lunch, RSVP is requested by May 10 for planning purposes. RSVP to Gina Cocomello at 703-537-3070 or email GinaC@NVRides.org

NV Rides is a program supporting a network of volunteer driver programs, and is a partnership between the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (the J), Fairfax County, and Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA).



Time: Thursday, May 17, 10 am- 1pm (An Exhibitor Fair will begin at 9:30 am)
Location: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton, VA 20124

Cost: FREE

Retirees Share a Moment

In this section, we ask you to share a story, anecdote, recipe, anniversary, travel tip, photo, health issue, etc., that you think may be of interest to other retirees. If you send photos please identify each person in the photo, as well as from what agency and when they retired. Please send them to [FCREA](#) and as space is available and relevant, they will be published.



*This month we received articles from Sandy Benfit, and Steve and Anita Baker.
Thanks to both for sharing!*

We want to thank Sandy Benfit for the following:

This is a work history of my parents John & Bernice Hoffman written by their daughter who is also a retired Fairfax County government employee, Sandy Benfit, who many may remember as Sandy Jones.

My father, John Hoffman passed away on June 9, 2014 at the age of 89. He started his Fairfax County employment as a Surveyor for the Department of Public Works in 1969. Dad was a surveyor and party chief for many years under the direction of Elmer Thompson & Burt Sours. He made many friends who became like family to us over his working career. His entire County career remained in the Survey branch until retirement in 1990.



John & Bernice Hoffman

My mother, Bernice (Bernie) Hoffman passed away on September 16, 2017 at the age of 93. She started her career with the Cooperative Computer Center (CCC), now called Department of Information Technology (DIT) in the basement of the Old Post Office building in 1957. She worked there until she went on maternity leave with me in the fall of 1961. Back then she was able to pay in to her retirement while she was on maternity leave so she would have a job to return to. She stayed home with me and cared for me until I went into first grade. When she returned back to work in 1968, the County placed her in the Office of Finance (now the Department of Finance) at the Old Courthouse building in Fairfax. I remember her telling me that she watched the Massey Building being built. Going from farm land to the tallest building in Fairfax! The Massey building opened in 1971 and many of the

County Government agencies moved there as well as mom. She started a new department in Finance called FAMIS (Financial Accounting Management Information System) and remained there until her retirement in January 1989.

Mom and Dad told me that Fairfax County was the best place to work because of the many jobs that the Government had to offer and it had the best benefits. They encouraged me and mom got me to apply for a job in Finance. I got my first real job working for Wayne Boles in the Office of Finance in 1981. I left Finance in 1988 to pursue a career in Purchasing & Supply Management (now Department of Procurement & Materials Management) where I stayed until I retired in 2012.

Along the way, I encouraged my sister Cathy Palmateer to join the County family. She started working in the Office of Assessments (now Department of Tax Administration) in 1983 and remained there until her retirement in 2012. Together Cathy & I encouraged other family members to join in on the family work tradition. Currently we have two nieces, a nephew, a great niece, a great nephew, a cousin and my husband, Joseph Benfit who continues to work for Fairfax County Government.

Long live the tradition!!!!
Sandy Benfit
Retired for DPSM in 2012

We want to thank Steve and Anita Baker for the following:

5 + years into retirement and it has been awesome. We bought a home in Berkeley County, WV just before retiring where 3 of our kids and their families live. We keep busy attending our grandchildren's basketball and soccer games. In the spring and summer months we maintain a large garden with enough veggies and herbs for our local family and half the neighborhood. We also do canning of homemade salsa, tomatoes, pickles, barbecue sauce, pepper sauce and jam. Steve started to work with wood a couple of years ago and has made several awesome furniture and home decor pieces. He builds, and I stain and/or paint.



Steve & Anita Baker

We have also enjoyed traveling –Florida, Texas, Iowa, Ohio and Mexico. Planning a trip out west in the next year or so to

Yellowstone and more. We just returned from 3 weeks in Cozumel which was fun, relaxing and had great weather. We are loving retirement – one of the best decisions we have ever made

Steve Baker - retired Park Authority

Anita Baker - retired Department of Admin for Human Services



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What's Going On at Fairfax County Federal Credit Union?



If you're looking for a place to park your savings and maximize your earning power all while having liquidity, our **Money Market Account** could be your best option.

Features

- Only \$2,500 Deposit to open a MM account
- Write Up to Three Checks Per Month
- Maximize Earnings With Direct Deposit of your pension or other income

Stop by a branch or visit our website for details.

Upcoming Fairfax County FCU Events

Community Shred Day

April 28 - 9am – 12pm

Fairfax Branch – 4201 Members Way, Fairfax

Come to our FREE Shred Day event performed by TrueShred, and help protect yourself from fraud. Identity theft is very common, so shredding documents containing personal financial information is a good strategy for minimizing risk of becoming a victim of fraud.

This is also a great opportunity to do some spring cleaning of your file cabinets as well! Because the event is limited to a 3-hour window we are allowing no more than 5 boxes per person (approximate box size is 10"H x 18"W).

Feel free to spread the word to family and friends!

Check out the [Credit Union's Quarterly Newsletter](#) for current promotions, news and events.

Not a credit union member yet? You are eligible to join! Open an account today and start reaping the FCFCU's benefits!

Visit our website, stop by a branch or call us for details! Fairfax County Federal Credit Union – FairfaxCU.org - 703.218.9900 opt.3. Federally Insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Lender.

FCREA Events.....



Keep In Touch Luncheon

The *Keep In Touch Luncheon* meets at 11:30 on the third Wednesday of every month (except May and December) at the Glory Days Grill, in the Pam Am Shopping Center.

The address is:
Glory Days Grill,
3059 Nutley St, Fairfax, VA.

[Map](#)

Phone: (703) 204-0900

We order from a menu and each person is responsible for his/her own meal, drink and a tip.

No reservations are required.

FCREA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 10am

The FCREA annual meeting will be held at the Fairfax County Federal Credit Union in the meeting room on the first floor. It is located at:

4201 Members Way
Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone 703-218-9900

[Map to the Credit Union](#)

Scheduled speakers include representatives from: Department of Human Resources, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Retirement Office, and the Fairfax County Federal Credit Union.

The 2019 Cola for FC retirees will be announced.

Election: There also will be the annual election for FCREA Board members. If you would like to volunteer to join the FCREA Board please [email](#) us!

Proposed Change to Member Dues: As outlined in the March Hot Flashes, the FCREA Board of Directors is proposing a change in the membership dues

structure. Currently, there are two levels: \$5 for annual membership and \$50 for lifetime membership. The Board recommends that there be just one level of membership - a lifetime membership, and that it remain at \$50. If this change is approved by our members at the annual meeting, all current annual members automatically will be converted to lifetime members and membership materials will be revised to offer only lifetime memberships to future members.

FCREA Senior Information Fair

Wednesday, May 16, 10am to 2pm

The Annual FCREA Senior Information Fair will be held at the American Legion in Fairfax City. This event is open to all FCREA members, friends, and other seniors. The list of participants includes:

FC Library - Access Services

FC Credit Union

Police and Fire

FC Department of Human Resources

FC Retirement Office

FC Electoral Board

..... and many others!

Also, Virginia Hospital Center will provide free screening to County Retirees and Spouses for cholesterol levels and blood pressure.

Lunch is available at the American Legion at a very reasonable cost, so make it an "afternoon out" with your friends.

[Map to American Legion](#)

Please join us!



FCREA Board Meetings

The FCREA Board of Directors meets at 9:30am in the Fairfax County Credit Union

(Fairfax Branch) on the third Wednesday, starting in January and then every other month except May. All FCREA members are invited to attend.

FCREA Membership



Your FCREA has lost track of some members; that is, their email and/or mailing addresses are no longer valid. If you are in contact with these members, please ask them to provide us with their current information by emailing it to [FCREA](#) or [Bobbie Deegan](#).

Members we have lost track of

Ann W. Anderson Retired from OPA in 1992
Judy Anderson retired Library in 2001
Linda Farby retired from FCPS (ASC) in 2014
John B. Fout retired from Internal Audit
Mark Holsteen retired from Parks in 2017

Anything you can do to help will be appreciated.



New Members

-Brenda Gardiner, Retired from Admin for Human Services on 3-16-18
-Elizabeth K. Keefe, Retired from Library in 2017
-Linda Nguyen, Retired in 2018
-Betsy (Elizabeth) Pugin, Retired from Family Services/Area Agency on Aging in 2010

-Wai Shieh-Allan, Retired from the Police Dept. on 1-9-18

-Charese D. Willis, Retired from DPWES – Wastewater Management on 2/20/18



Condolences

Donald Lederer passed away on April 11, 2018. He retired from the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1990 after almost 30 years of service. [Obituary](#)

Christine Aurelia Malone, 93, of Oakton, VA, passed away on Monday, March 12, 2018. She retired from the Park Authority in 1993. [Obituary](#)

Sharon Heather Landry passed away on April 14, 2018. She retired from the County Executive's office in 2004
[Obituary](#)

Stephen Patrick Kirby passed away on March 7, 2018. Stephen retired from Human Resources in 2000.
[Obituary](#)

Encourage Others to Join your FCREA

Any retired Fairfax County employee or surviving spouse is eligible to become a member of the Association. As you know, we use Hot Flashes to provide retirees with County benefits information, news about other retirees and other information we believe may be of interest. The association has an Annual Membership Meeting in May and sponsors several events all year, to include monthly luncheons, a Senior Information Fair in May, an annual picnic in September, and a holiday luncheon in December..

Prospective members should contact [Bobbie Deegan](#). The cost of a lifetime membership is just \$50. For a membership application [click here](#).

FCREA Officers

Chairman:

Pam Martin

703-323-4929

Past Chairman:

Joe Blackwell

Vice Chairman & Sunshine Committee Chair:

Joyce Gerhart

703-560-4785

(ggerhart2@verizon.net).

Secretary & Hot Flashes Editor:

Chuck Higdon

FCREA99@gmail.com

Treasurer & Membership

(send dues payments and/or address changes to):

Bobbie Deegan

4316 Knott Street

Beltsville, MD 20705

301-937-7070

BobbieDeegan@aol.com

Retirement Board:

John Yeatman

Travel Coordinator:

Betty Powell

Fairfax County Retirement

12015 Lee Jackson Hwy , Suite 350, Fairfax, VA 22030

1-800-333-1633 or 703-279-8200

[FCREA Website](#)

And Finally ...

My Reverse Bucket List ... *things most retirees will NOT do in retirement.*

Standing on the Edgewalk in Toronto .



Jumping on the Trolltunga rock in Norway.



Extreme skiing in Wyoming.



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