

HOT Flashes

Fairfax County Retired Employees Association

January 2021

Chairman's Message

Last year, my January Message started out, "It's 2020 – a new decade and another fresh start! Whatever your plans are for the coming months, I hope you achieve them all and have an amazing new year."



Well, 2020 didn't go as planned, did it! And not just because of the pandemic. I think 2020 was one of the most unsettling years in my memory, with all the fires, riots, shootings, name-calling, etc. Year 2021 gives us another clean slate. Let's hope it is a calm, safe, healthy, happy year for everyone.

As of this writing, social activities still are restricted due to COVID. A vaccine has been approved for use in the United States, but it will be months before everyone can be vaccinated. Therefore, the FCREA Board has not started planning our usual in-person events.

If all goes well, at some point we will return to our usual schedule in 2021:

- * Our annual meeting on the first Wednesday in May, which will be May 5th – Cinco de Mayo!
- * Our annual-unless-there's-a-pandemic Senior Information Fair two weeks later, on Wednesday, May 19th, 2021.
- * FCREA's annual picnic at Nottoway Park in Vienna on Wednesday, September 15th – surely things will be more normal by then!
- * FCREA's annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 15th. This one will require some legwork when possible venues open up again. Our usual location, The Waterford at Fair Oaks, filed for bankruptcy this year, another victim of the coronavirus.

You should receive your 1099-R tax form from the Retirement Office by January 31st. If you moved during 2020, contact the Retirement Office at 703-279-8200 and make sure they have your correct address!

That's all for this month. Until we can see each other again – wear a mask; wash your hands; keep 6 feet away from the person in front of you, next to you, and behind you – you know the drill! Stay well!

Sincerely,

Pam Martin, Chairman
Fairfax County Retired Employees Association

Retirees Share



In this section, we ask you to share something that may be of interest to other retirees. Please send them to [FCREA](#) and as space is available and relevant, they will be published.

Our thanks to Victor Garcia for the following:

Since retiring in 2014 from the Department of Finance, I have been able to spend more quality time with my wife and do things we were too busy to enjoy while we were working.

Throughout the year, we go back and forth between Virginia and Miami to spend time with our three grandchildren, ages 4, 5, and 11 years old.

We have been able to enjoy trips around the world to such places as New Zealand, Portugal, Sicily, and the Philippines. We don't have to be on a travel timeline anymore and are able to explore each country more thoroughly.





Staying active after retiring may be more difficult. In order to get out there and keep moving, I do enjoy playing golf with family or former coworkers. Between January and April, I go into work mode and prepare income tax returns for family and friends. I am still able to attend tax seminars and subscribe to various publications to stay current on tax laws. Sometimes, my son hires me to work at his restaurant in Alexandria. Unfortunately, the pay isn't always the best.

Because of the pandemic, our stay home strategy involves gardening, cooking, playing cards and mahjong. I also started a DIY project to replace floor boards and paint the deck.

Retirement has helped us to enjoy life more and spend more time with the people who mean the most to us.

Victor retired from the Department of Finance in 2014

Our thanks to Mir Ali for the following:

After 25 plus years of working with the Fairfax County Government and retiring, I took on a new journey in my life and pursued my desire to become a teacher. I went on to apply to be a substitute teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools have been working as one for more than four years. I have gained a lot of appreciation from principals and teachers from various schools in the county.

I only do what I enjoy each morning - to serve the kids of the community. I also learn a lot from the teachers and students. I was acknowledged and given a teacher of the year award. It was such a great accomplishment for me and an honor to be recognized with such an award.



Besides being a substitute teacher and all the rewards that it brings, I try to keep busy and active during my retirement by spending my time with my family and my grandchildren on the weekends. Once a month or so, my wife and I also travel to see our daughters in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Mir Ali retired from DPW in 2014

Fairfax County Department of Human Resources

Have you heard about the new beneficiary designation process?

As of January 4, 2021, Fairfax County Government retirees who have maintained enrollment in life insurance can use the new, online system to update their life insurance beneficiaries.

Ready Enroll is Fairfax County Government's new online beneficiary designation system. It allows you to update your life insurance beneficiaries from anywhere, at any time. Leave no doubt about who will receive this important benefit.

Note: retirees will not be able to view or confirm current beneficiary elections (those made previously by paper form) unless the information has been updated in the new system. If you have completed a paper beneficiary form in the past, Fairfax County Government will continue to refer to this document for beneficiary designation confirmation until you have updated your wishes in the new Ready Enroll system.

Are you ready to get started?

- Visit the online portal at <https://standard.benselect.com/>
 - Your username is your Social Security Number.
 - Upon first login, your PIN is the last four digits of your Social Security Number followed by your birth year. (You then will be prompted to change your PIN.)
- Example: If your Social Security Number is 123-45-6789 and you were born in 1970, your username would be 123456789 and your initial PIN would be

67891970.

Contact The Standard's dedicated Account Specialist for Fairfax County Government at Lonna.Owens@standard.com or 703.324.3351 if you have questions about naming beneficiaries or any other aspect of your life insurance coverage.

A few reminders from the DHR- Benefits Team....

- If you changed your County health plan during the most recent Open Enrollment period, you should receive new insurance cards around the first week of January.
- All Cigna participants will be issued new insurance cards, even if you did not make a change in your benefit election.
- Delta Dental and EyeMed Vision will not reissue cards. Should you need a replacement card, you will be able to print card through your online accounts:

- o Delta Dental plan: www.deltadentalva.com

- o EyeMed Vision: www.eyemed.com

- Annually, Cigna updates the Part D formulary based on Medicare requirements. Changes are provided in the full formulary that is mailed with renewal kits. Additionally, members may receive a letter from Cigna Rx Medicare Part D Prescription plan. For questions regarding formulary changes with Cigna Rx Medicare Part D Prescription, please contact their customer service line at 1-800-558-9562.

Have additional benefit questions? Visit our public benefits website to access plan information and contact resources at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hr/fairfax-county-benefits-summary

DHR has updated its list of contacts whom retirees can call for help with benefits: [Know Who to Call](#)

Medicare.gov

Watch out for COVID-19 vaccine scams

As the country begins to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, there's no doubt scammers are already scheming.

Medicare covers the COVID-19 vaccine, so there will be no cost to you. If anyone asks you to share your Medicare Number or pay for access to the vaccine, you can bet it's a scam.

Here's what to know:

- * You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- * You can't pay to get early access to a vaccine.
- * Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee.

More Information

If you come across a COVID-19 vaccine scam, **report it to the Federal Trade Commission** or call us at 1-800-MEDICARE. And check out **CDC.gov** for trustworthy information on the COVID-19 vaccine.



It's official: our new look for Web Member Services (WMS) is here! When you log in to your account from our website, you'll see something like this.

One of the benefits to our new look is that the pages are "user friendly" and adapt the view depending on the screen size of the device you're using: desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone. If you haven't already created an account in WMS, click on the **Tip Sheet** for instructions.

We've also updated the security features, and if you've forgotten your username or password, you can simply click the link for help.

Also note that security has been increased. Some members may be asked to increase the complexity of their passwords when they login. Additionally, the first time a member logs in he/she will be asked to answer an authentication question and to register the device. *If you're on a public machine, do not check the "Remember this Device" button.* If you have trouble logging in, please contact Retirement Systems by clicking **here**.



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CREDIT UNION

Let's get to what's next in 2021.

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, NextMark main will prioritize the health and safety of our members, our employees, and the community we serve.

Branch Hours & Closures

We continue to update our operating hours to accommodate member needs at the following branch locations:

OPEN BRANCHES

Fairfax Branch: 4201 Members Way, Fairfax, VA 22030

Lobby Hours:

M - F: 10am – 3pm; 3pm-5pm by appointment only.

Sat: By appointment only.

Drive-Thru Hours: M,T,W,F: 9am – 5pm, TH: 9:30am-5pm, Sat. 9am-1pm.

Springfield Branch: 6506 Loisdale Rd., #100, Springfield, VA 22150

Lobby Hours: M - F: 10am – 3pm; 3pm-5pm by appointment only.

Sat. By appointment only.

Drive-Thru Hours: M,T,W,F: 9am – 5pm, TH: 10:00am-5pm, Sat. 9am-1pm.

Government Center Branch: 12000 Government Center Parkway, Ste. 266, Fairfax, VA 22035

Lobby Hours: Monday and Friday: 8am – 4pm

T, W, TH, Sat: CLOSED

We hope to re-open the Herrity Branch in the near future.

Please call 703-218-9900 to make an appointment.

For faster service: Print and complete your [Deposit Slip](#) ahead of time. No worries if you don't; we have slips available for you at our branches and drive-thrus.

Online Banking and Mobile is the way to go

Our Online and Mobile Banking options are available 24/7. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to enroll today by clicking on the "Log in" button on our website (NextMarkCU.org). To access mobile banking, we invite you to download our NextMark Mobile Banking app from your App Store.

Deposit a check from the comfort & safety of your home

Get started by downloading the NextMark Mobile App from your App Store, then go to Transactions>Deposit Check and follow the instructions to take a picture and deposit your check right into your account. It's that easy.

Financial Relief Products

If you or someone in your economic household is experiencing a financial hardship, we are here to help. Please visit our [COVID-19 resource page](#) for a detailed list of financial relief products, or email us at membersolutions@NextMarkCU.org.

Check out our latest newsletter [here](#). We wish you a safe, healthy and happy new year.

FCREA Events

The FCREA monthly luncheon is cancelled until further notice.

Dates for your 2021 Calendar

The below events are scheduled, but cancellation is a possibility depending upon the pandemic.

FCREA Annual Meeting - May 5, 2021

FCREA Senior Information Fair - May 19, 2021

FCREA Picnic - September 2021

FCREA Holiday Luncheon - December 15, 2021

FCREA Membership

New Members

- * Judy Egan, Retired from Libraries on 9/11/2020
- * William Nolan, Retired from Public Works in April 2017
- * Susan Tavallai, Retired from Park Authority on 12/18/2020



To Join FCREA .. .

Any retired Fairfax County employee or surviving spouse is eligible to become a member of the Association. Our Hot Flashes newsletter provides 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 during the year.

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

Sad News

Graham F. Hitt passed away on October 22, 2020. Graham retired from DIT in 1997. At Graham's request, there was no funeral service.

Dorothy Maddox Bower, 91, of Fairfax, Virginia, passed away on May 25, 2020, after a short illness. Dorothy retired from the Department of Tax Administration in 1993. [Obituary](#)

Martha Mae Armstrong (nee McNally), age 89, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died Wednesday, September 9, 2020. Martha retired from Food Services in 1997. [Obituary](#)



FCREA information

For a list of FCREA Board Members: [Board](#)

[FCREA Website](#)

Fairfax County Retirement

12015 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy, Suite 350, Fairfax, VA 22033-3300
1-800-333-1633 or 703-279-8200

Fairfax County Retirement Web Member Services: [website](#)

Fairfax County Benefits Summary - Retirees

Department of Human Resources Retiree Benefits list of [Who to Call Contacts](#)

Finally... on the lighter side



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