Planning Commissioner Pete Murphy is 2012 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year

Annandale VA: Planning Commissioner Pete Murphy is 2012 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year

Annandale news, covering redevelopment, schools, transportation, businesses, restaurants, crime, parks, local government, shopping, entertainment, and neighborhoods in Annandale and Mason District in Fairfax County.

Friday, March 9, 2012

Planning Commissioner Pete Murphy is 2012 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations has selected Planning Commissioner Peter “Pete” Murphy as the 2012 Citizen of the Year.

Murphy will be honored at the annual awards banquet sponsored by the Federation and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) on April 7 at the Tysons Corner Marriott Hotel.

Planning Commission Chairman Tania Hossain says Murphy has been chairman of the Fairfax County Planning Commission for over 20 years and has hosted the Planning Commission’s “Roundtable” television program for the past 10 years.

“Mr. Murphy has led the Planning Commission with fairness, professionalism, and a sense of humor while presiding over hundreds of public hearings involving the future of land use in Fairfax County,” the federation stated. A resident of Burke, Murphy has contributed over 30 years of dedicated public service to the Planning Commission.

The federation will also award two 2012 Citations of Merit: Rose Chu for her tireless outreach to the Asian American community on a range of issues, including public health, voter registration, voter education, and small business opportunities; and Sergeant Major Chuck Siepp for his passionate work to increase awareness of teen sleep needs and the importance of Bailey’s Crossroads.

The federation will award two 2012 Honorary Awards: Loryn Goldstein as its first recipient of the Lifetime Achievement/Special Gratitude Award. Finally, the federation will recognize the Kate Hanley as its first recipient of the 2011 Citation of Merit, and Blog Advertising Director Mollie Loeffler, the 2010 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year.

The federation will also award two 2012 Special Gratitude Awards: Rose Chu for her tireless outreach to the Asian American community on a range of issues, and Sergeant Major Chuck Siepp for his passionate work to increase awareness of teen sleep needs and the importance of Bailey’s Crossroads.

The federation also will award two 2012 Special Working Group Awards: The Special Working Group on the Green Eagle Science Center to open in 2019 in the Dulles area, presentation on Hidden Oasis Nature Center, a 7:30 p.m.

6:30-7:30 p.m. Ages 4 and up. $6. Register online or call 703-642-5173.

Feb. 1 - Groundhog Day Celebration, Hidden Oasis Nature Center, 2-3 p.m. Ages 3-11. $6. Register online or call 703-642-5173.

Signed Agreement Day, Hidden Oasis Nature Center, 2-3 p.m. Ages 3-11. $6. Register online or call 703-642-5173.

Jan. 17 - Gardening Lecture: Elements of Design, Spring Garden, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Ages 11 and up. $16. Register online or call 703-204-3941.

Jan. 17 - Family Fun: Desert Dreams, Hidden Oasis Nature Center, 1-3 p.m. Ages 4 and up. $16. Register online or call 703-222-4664.

Jan. 10 - Family Fun: Desert Dreams, Hidden Oasis Nature Center, 1-3 p.m. Ages 4 and up. $16. Register online or call 703-222-4664.

Jan. 10 - Flying Square: Gilling in the Hardiness, Green Spring Gardens, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Ages 11 and up. $32. Register online or call 703-222-4664.

Jan. 25 - Castorland: The Wicked Art, Hidden Oasis Nature Center, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Ages 11 and up. $32. Register online or call 703-222-4664.

Jan. 25 - Winter Lecture: Trust on Plant Hardiness, Green Spring Gardens, 1-2:30 p.m. Ages 11 and up. $10. Register online or call 703-204-3941.

Jan. 25 - Australia Day Celebration, Hidden Oasis Nature Center, 2-3 p.m. Ages 13 and up. $4 for members, $5 for nonmembers. Register online or call 703-222-4664.

Jan. 21 - Celebrate Fairfax Inc., Hidden Oasis Nature Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, 7-9 p.m. Register online or call 703-204-3941.

Jan. 19 - Hot Cocoa Party, Green Spring Gardens, 1-2:30 p.m. Ages 5 and up. $16.

Jan. 20 - Special Working Group on the Green Eagle Science Center to open in 2019 in the Dulles area, presentation on Hidden Oasis Nature Center, 7:30 p.m.

January 19, 2012

Still working on my post for the Fairfax County Planning Commission newsletter.

February 15, 2012

February is Black History Month. Murphy, the 2010 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year, has selected Pete Murphy as the 2012 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year.

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Feb. 14 - Chocolate and Tea Tasting Party, Green Spring Gardens, 10 a.m.-noon. $27. Ages 18 and up. Register online or call 703-642-5173.

Feb. 15 - Winter Lecture: Winning Against Weeds, Green Spring Gardens, 1:30-2:30 p.m. $10. Ages 18 and up. Register online or call 703-642-5173.

Feb. 16 - Animal Valentines, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 2-3:15 p.m. Ages 4 and up. $7. Register online or call 703-222-4664.

Gallows Road trees torn down to make way for assisted living facility

Six houses were demolished to make way for an assisted living facility on Gallows Road. The developer of the Brightview assisted living facility on Gallows Road plans to build an assisted living center on a property adjacent to the demolished houses. The developer also plans to build a senior living center on a nearby property.

Judge rejects motion to dismiss suit against Bailey's principal

The lawsuit filed by former employees against Bailey's Elementary School Principal Marie Lemmon and Fairfax County Public Schools is going to trial. The lawsuit alleges that Lemmon and the school district violated the Civil Rights Act by discriminating against the plaintiffs.

Where to celebrate on New Year's Eve

Looking for a fun way to celebrate New Year's Eve without having to go to D.C. or National Harbor? Here are some options for ringing in the new year:

1. FCPS outlines solutions to school overcrowding

Portable classrooms handle the overflow at Glen Forest Elementary School. The proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for fiscal year 2015 includes funds for new schools and renovations to existing schools in the FCPS system. The CIP is expected to be finalized in March.

Dominion is burying power lines to reduce threat of outages

Dominion Virginia Power plans to bury approximately 4,000 miles of power lines on Brenda Lane, Annandale. Dominion is burying power lines to reduce the threat of outages caused by tree-related incidents.