

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 8, and March 22, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

However, because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times. More than 1,000 people had carseats checked and adjusted there in 2011.

Smoke Alarms, Escape Plans

This Saturday, March 10, from 9 a.m. to noon, firefighters will canvass homes in selected neighborhoods throughout Fairfax County, checking for working smoke alarms.

They'll also provide family escape plans in case of a fire. It's part of the nationwide "Install. Inspect. Protect" campaign that emphasizes that smoke alarms save lives. According to authorities, more than 3,000 people in the U.S. die in home fires each year; most of these fatalities occur in homes without a working smoke alarm.

Spring Forward One Hour

Daylight Saving Time starts this Sunday, March 11, at 2 a.m. So before going to bed, Saturday night, be sure to turn those clocks, recording devices and watches ahead one hour.

Athletic Field Lights at E.C Lawrence Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold an informational meeting about the upcoming installation of athletic-field lighting on rectangular field number 3 at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. It's slated for Monday, March 12, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. There'll be a presentation, plus an opportunity for residents to speak with staff and ask question.

Park Authority to Meet

The Fairfax County Park Authority will meet Wednesday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m., in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 900 in Fairfax. Call Judy Pedersen at 703-324-8662.

Race and Help Save Lives

On Saturday, March 24, at the Fairfax Corner Shopping Center, Rogue Racers and Rev3 Adventures will hold the Rev3 Run Rogue 5K, with proceeds going to Life with Cancer [www.http://lifewithcancer.org/](http://lifewithcancer.org/) and the National Brain Tumor Society <http://www.brainumor.org/>.

It's a fun, family-oriented event where participants may walk or run a USATF-certified 5K course at 8:30 a.m., or participate in a 1K kids' fun run at 8 a.m., before the main event. Cash prizes will be given to the top three male and female finishers, and the first-place winners will also receive coupons for a free pair of Brooks shoes. There'll also be age-group awards and over-40 cash prizes. Sign up at http://www.runrogue5k.com/Run_Rogue_5K/Race_Info.html.

Seeking Friends of Trees

Trish Strat, the Sully District Tree Commissioner, is seeking candidates for the Fairfax County "Friends of Trees" award. Information and the nomination form are at

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/2011_friends_of_trees_award_nomination_form.pdf.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Pam Rearden (left), children's information assistant, and librarian Jaye Lahlou at the centrally relocated information desk.

Chantilly Library: The Renewal Project

"A wonderful place for our community."

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Just as the writing of a book begins with an idea, so did the renovations of the Chantilly Regional Library. It started around 2004, when then Branch Manager Bonnie Worcester and her staff first discussed how to improve customer service there.

They initially focused on updating and renovating the circulation desk — where customers checked out and returned books and other materials. They considered moving it in front of the book drop.

The discussion intensified in 2008 when the library began a new chapter with Daria Parnes as its branch manager. Then Fairfax County staff became involved in deciding where the desk should go.

"Rosalyn Sevilla, a county space-planner, worked with us to design the desk and its location," said Parnes. "The change was necessary because, with reduced library staffing and hours, the desk needed to be in a better place to increase efficiency. Moving it near the outside book drop saves time and effort for staff and customers; it also facilitates work flow and quicker processing of returned books."

However, that switch was the catalyst for others, and the discussion expanded to other improvements to the building's functions. These included moving the children's area to the periodical room, relocating the magazines to the front of the building and shifting the information desk to the middle of the library for more customer visibility.

Parnes shared the staff's suggestions with the board of the Friends of the Chantilly Regional Library and requested financial support for the project. The Friends are the nonprofit, volunteer group that supports the library by volunteering its time and selling donated books to raise money for the library's needs.



Franklin Farm's Lorraine Colavito reads "A Ball for Daisy" to her granddaughter, Anna Showalter, 2 and a half, of Sully Station II in Centreville, in the library's new children's area.

The Friends approved the funds for the renovation — ultimately costing \$163,000 — including new carpeting for the public area. Then Sam Clay, director of the county Library System, gave his blessing to the project.

❖ Phase one (done in November 2010) included moving the children's room to the magazine area, shifting the magazines to the front and relocating the "Holds Pick up" shelving to the front of the li



Steve Okrend (left) and Daria Parnes stand in the newly relocated children's area of the Chantilly Regional Library.

Chantilly Library: The Renewal Project

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brary. The information desk was moved to the center.

"It didn't catch people's eye before, so they just walked past it," said Steve Okrend, the library's youth services manager. "Having it in the center has worked out well; now customers can stop there for questions or reference and then branch out. It's also easier for staff to access all points of the library from there."

Phase two (done in December 2011) included fabricating a new circulation desk, relocating it to the opposite side of the library, in front of the book return, and showcasing the area behind the old desk for new materials.

"Jane Frazier, now retired, with the county's Facilities Management Department, and [FMD'S] Christine Wilhelm, integrated the project pieces together and made it all happen, along with others [from FMD]," said Parnes. "We also worked with the county's Department of Information Technology to move data lines."

Relocating the information and circulation desks was also done to make the library more customer-friendly. The changes gave it a more positive and welcoming atmosphere. But if not for the Friends, said Parnes, none of them would have been possible.

"They're members of our local community who work tirelessly to improve and enhance the library facilities, inside and out," she said. "They also increase the materials collection and contribute to the library's year-round children's programs."


On a regular basis, 16-20 people a week volunteer at that library.

In 2011, they logged more than 2,500 hours. And the money contributed by the Friends comes from the twice-yearly book sales they run.

"We could not be the nice-looking branch we are today without

the Friends' help," said Parnes. "By supporting us, they support the community. Their generosity of time and spirit has made the Chantilly Regional Library a wonderful place for our community and customers of all ages."

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