

NEWS BRIEFS

Rail to get \$85 million infusion

Part of the fiscal 2010 spending bill approved Monday by the House Transportation Appropriations subcommittee includes \$85 million for the Dulles rail project, according to Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Dist. 10).

The money is the first to come since the full funding grant agreement was signed in March by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. The additional funding will bring the total federal share to date for the project to more than \$440 million.

"This project is going to make a big difference in helping ease congestion in the region," Wolf said in a press release. "It is going to get cars off the Dulles corridor and connect the nation's capital to one of the world's leading international airports."

Wolf, a senior member of the subcommittee, said the full appropriations committee will take up the annual spending bill on Friday. The Senate will look at its version of the annual spending bill later this summer.

Library announces the Big Read

The Fairfax County Public Library is encouraging residents to read "A Lesson Before Dying" by Ernest Gaines between now and Nov. 15 and become a part of one of the largest reading programs in the country.

The library system is partnering with the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and many communities throughout Virginia for its latest community-wide reading program. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the

Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest to revitalize the role of literature in American culture.

Library programs coinciding with the one-book, one-community initiative, also known as "All Fairfax Reads," will be posted on the library's Web site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. Events will include book discussions, a performance and a visit in October by writer and lawyer Scott Turow.

RESTON

Runners group donates \$1K to community center

At Saturday's Reston Festival, the Reston Runners group donated \$1,000 to the Friends of the Reston Community Center in recognition of the support RCC provides to the running community.

Tim Cohn, president of Reston Runners, publically thanked Bea Malone, president of the Friends of RCC, for her work during the past year.

The RCC has become a favorite running venue in Reston, and will again host Reston Runners Fall-into-Winter 10K Race. The Fall-into-Winter race will be held Dec. 6, celebrating the end of the fall running season and raising funds to benefit the Reston Community Center.

Malone said that this year's donation will support scholarships for students who have provided extraordinary service to the RCC.

MCLEAN

List of Dranesville projects unveiled

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the funding of over 20 intersection,

pedestrian and bicycle projects in the Dranesville District.

Close to 150 potential projects were identified and considered. From that list, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) asked the County Department of Transportation staff to evaluate approximately 40 projects from a cost and construction feasibility standpoint.

"Some of the newly funded projects have been on citizen 'waiting lists' for years," said Foust in a statement. "I am gratified that in these days of an extremely tight budget, we were able to get funding to move a wide variety of pedestrian and road projects forward in my district."

Some of the projects are subject to obtaining easements from private property owners. Most of the projects will be funded from Fairfax County's Commercial and Industrial Tax revenues.

Upcoming improvement projects include:

- Georgetown Pike: Add flashing beacon warning signal on Georgetown Pike east of Swinks Mill Road;

- Old Chesterbrook Road at Westmoreland: Add a median island to help safe pedestrian crossing;

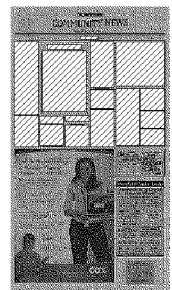
- Colvin Run and Route 7: Install ADA compliant pedestrian crossing for cross-county trail, including crossing signals and crosswalk;

- Old Dominion Drive and Spring Hill Road: Extend shoulder and relocate or cover dangerous ditch;

- Route 123 and Waverly Way: Extend east bound left turn lane from Route 123 to Waverly;

- Walker Road: Install traffic calming features and access lanes at business district intersections south of Georgetown Pike;

- Chain Bridge Road and Tennyson Drive: Install pedestrian crossing lights at all four corners of Chain Bridge Road and Tennyson Drive;



•Georgetown Pike and Balls Hill Road: Add crosswalks, pedestrian signals and curb ramps on north and east legs;

•Great Falls Street: Add pedestrian signals and upgrade curb ramps on east leg of Great Falls Street from Grande Lane to Haycock Road;

•Leesburg Pike and Lewinsville Road: Add crosswalks, pedestrian signals and curb ramps on north and east legs;

•Old Dominion Drive and Whittier Avenue: Install pedestrian crossing lights at all four corners.

Designs for the future



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On June 30, a group of students from Pinecrest Elementary School in Annandale visited educational architecture firm SHW Group's Reston studio for a field trip during their architecture-themed summer camp. The students were taken on a tour of the studio, were shown models and plans, and were able to speak to the architects. The students will be working on their own design for a building and will draw plans and then build a model of their design, using the knowledge gained from their field trip.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Reston Runners Joe Fleig (far left) and Ellen Mannion (far right) look on as Tim Cohn presents Bea Malone with a \$1,000 donation from Reston Runners to the Friends of the Reston Community Center.