



# WESTLAWN NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTLAWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 3

<http://members.cox.net/kdconway/westlawn/home>

JUNE 2009

## Changes Coming to Westlawn Shopping Center

*By Dave Conway*

One night in April, a handful of Westlawn residents met at Bill Page Honda to hear a presentation on Bill Page's new proposal to redevelop the Westlawn Shopping Center. The plan is similar to his earlier proposal from 2006, but there would be no underground automobile service bays and only one dealership instead of two (the Toyota dealership will remain at its current location on Annandale Road).

According to Bill Page's representatives, the shopping center redevelopment would be finished by about 2013 if all goes well. It will take about a year to go through the Fairfax County zoning review process, which includes a series of reviews and hearings. If that process is successful, it would take another year to get through the site plan and permit-ting phase, after which construction could begin.

Construction would commence in phases, with the first phase involving demolition of the existing shopping center, which would be replaced with a new building housing the Honda dealership and a redeveloped retail component. During this initial phase, the Post Office and the BB&T Bank would be given the opportunity to continue to operate out of trailers. The remaining tenants currently at the shopping center would be given an opportunity to lease in the new retail building, but would have to cease operations during construction.

Once the Honda dealership has relocated to the new building, which should take approximately 12 months, the existing Honda dealership will be demolished to make way for a bank and credit union, with additional parking.

Bill Page would like the Post Office to remain. However, there will be very limited parking at the redeveloped project available for postal trucks, so it remains to be seen whether the Post Office will choose to remain at the Westlawn Shopping Center or move to a different location (see next article).

Highlights of the plan:

- The Honda dealership would move to area currently occupied by the empty grocery store and some of its parking area.
- A multi-story garage would be built behind the shopping center for storing new cars (no commercial parking). This would allow Bill Page to increase his inventory and sell more cars, all out of sight from ground level.
- They would like to have a drug store with a drive-thru pharmacy at the southeast corner of the property.
- The existing Honda dealership would be replaced with a bank and a credit union, each with drive-thru service and parking behind the buildings.
- The total amount of area devoted to retail stores would be 45,000 square feet.
- No drive-thru fast food sites!
- The back side of the property would have a high quality wood fence with greenery on both sides, and vehicles would be able to drive all around the shopping center to get around.
- The two main vehicle entrances would be the South Street stop light and a new entrance just past the McDonald's. Another entrance is available on Annandale Road near Tripp's Run.



# Corpus Christi School

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- We have interactive white boards, networked classrooms and an up-to-date computer lab
- Our school is very active in its community
- We have a shuttle bus between our two campuses

Check our web site, [www.corpuschristischool.org](http://www.corpuschristischool.org), for more details.

The plans call for closing the south Route 50 service road from just after the McDonald's to Annandale Road. Bill Page said that Fairfax County will likely require this change as part of a master plan to eliminate service roads along commercial property, and that he would not oppose leaving the service road in place if residents in the adjacent neighborhoods overwhelmingly support its retention and the County will permit it.

Several of us spoke out against closing the service drive, as it would eliminate an important access point for residents who live in the north part of Westlawn and need the service road to get in and out of the neighborhood, especially during rush hours when traffic on the main roads can back up and block access to our neighborhood.

If you have concerns about this proposal to close the service road, either for or against, please contact Staff Coordinator Tracy Strunk ([tracy.strunk@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:tracy.strunk@fairfaxcounty.gov), 703-324-1290) and Supervisor Penny Gross ([mason@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mason@fairfaxcounty.gov), 703-256-7717) and express your concerns!

## Post Office Looking to Relocate

By Dave Conway

At our last civic association meeting, representatives from the US Postal Service made a presentation of their plans for the future Mosby Branch, the post office that services the 22042 zip code. Dennis Perry, a USPS real estate specialist from Greensboro, NC spoke to us about the situation they are facing regarding the Mosby Branch.

A post office has a heavy parking requirement for its employees—one space for each postal carrier's personal car, and another space for their postal delivery vehicle. Bill Page's plan to redevelop the Westlawn Shopping Center would eliminate the employee parking area needed to conduct a carrier operation. Rather than keep a retail postal service center in the new Westlawn Shopping Center and split off the carrier service to another location, the US Postal Service wants to keep everything in one location. As a result, it is looking to relocate the Mosby Branch.

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



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*Summer Worship on Sunday at 10:00 a.m.*



## Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

3022 Woodlawn Avenue  
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Graham Rd and Amundale Rd)

Phone: 703-532-6617  
Fax: 703-532-4659

[www.htluther.org](http://www.htluther.org)

We invite the young people in the community to participate in our *Summer Sunday Celebrations*:

5:00 pm on June 21 and 28, July 12, 19 and 26

The Theme is **DISCOVERY CANYON**

*Everyone is welcome to join us for dinner,  
and to take part in the fellowship and learning activities!*

*For more information on our youth programs, please contact:*

### Youth Coordinator

Terri Fleck.....trfleckster@hotmail.com

### Associate in Ministry for Education

Alfreda Rulis .....alfie.rulis@htluther.org

### Senior Pastor

The Rev. Jane Halpern.....pastorjane@htluther.org

According to Mr. Perry, his goal is to find a new site within a half mile of the existing location. He is looking for a site with 10,000 square feet that has 140 parking spaces. He has identified a couple of promising locations. However, he has taken no actions yet, and he is not at liberty to discuss where these locations are. When asked about the old Chili's site just north of Route 50 and west of Annandale Road, he said it was a possibility, but the building was a bit small for USPS needs.

Mr. Perry indicated that the USPS is committed to find a new site for the Mosby Branch in as convenient a location as possible.

### Westlawn News

Published by the Westlawn Civic Association

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#### Dave DeCamp

*Neighborhood Watch, 703-533-0603*

## Help Local Schools Every Time You Shop!

*By Dave Conway*

Giant has a program where a small part of the money you pay for purchases is donated to one or more schools of your choice. You have to re-enroll each year. The program ends in the spring and begins again in the fall, so enroll by late summer. Enrolling is easy—if you have a card for the store and access to the Internet, it takes just a few minutes.

Web site address: [www.giantfood.com/aplus/](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/)  
To register you need your Giant card number and first three letters of your last name. Choose up to three schools by using the pull down menu, one school at a time. You can also enter the school codes directly. For example, here are the school codes for our public school pyramid:

- # 01923 Westlawn Elementary School
- # 01920 Luther Jackson Middle School
- # 01916 Falls Church High School

Also, this article is on our Web site at [members.cox.net/kdconway/westlawn/school.htm](http://members.cox.net/kdconway/westlawn/school.htm).

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009

At Graham Road Church

2929 Graham Road Falls Church Virginia 22042

July 13 – 17 from 9:00am – 11:30am



## CAMP E.D.G.E.

Where we will “Explore and Discover God Everywhere!”

“Sparky the Fox” puppet will be joining us each day and we will enjoy story times, crafts, snacks, recreation and singing around the campfire.

*(Activities take place indoors except for recreation on nice days.)*

All children ages 3 – 13 are welcome to join the fun—and it's free!

Please call the church at 703.573.4444 Ext. 207 for information and registration.

Registration is requested by July 6<sup>th</sup>, but there will be registration at the door the first two days of VBS for those who are not able to register early.

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## News From Mason District

By Supervisor Penny Gross

### Electric Sundays at Fairfax County's I-66

**Transfer Station** - County residents can recycle televisions, computers, and electronic peripherals at the I-66 Transfer Station from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., 14 June, 12 July, 16 August, 20 September, 18 October, and 15 November. The Transfer Station is located at 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax. There is no cost to Fairfax County residents for this service.

Electric Sundays are limited to the collection of central processing units (CPU), computer monitors, computer peripherals, laptops, desktop computers, televisions, console TVs, projector TVs, flat screen TVs, consumer electronics containing circuit boards, stereos, video cassette recorders, CD/DVD players, telephones, cell phones, printers, scanners, copiers, fax machines, computer parts and accessories, keyboards, and mouse devices.

Equipment brought to these events does not need to be in working order. For more information about recycling and trash, including upcoming events,

visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling/). For scheduling updates, including cancellation notification of events, please call the Fairfax County Recycling Info Line at 703-324-5052.

### Proper Disposal of Compact Fluorescent Light

**Bulbs** - Many people have made the switch from using incandescent light bulbs to Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs). Because CFLs contain a tiny amount of mercury, homeowners should not throw used CFLs into the trash. Instead, residents are asked to recycle them.

Home Depot stores accept CFLs for recycling, free of charge. Take the unbroken, expired bulbs to the returns desk at any store. Residents also may take their used CFLs to the I-66 Transfer Station Complex and the I-95 Landfill Complex household hazardous waste sites during scheduled dates and times only. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/mat-light.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/mat-light.htm) for more information.

# Eco-Savvy Gardening

By Dave Conway

At our May civic association meeting, two Green Spring Master Gardeners gave a presentation on the problems from traditional gardening and lawn maintenance and the benefits of taking a different approach. Anne Marie Hicks and Ponder Henley provided a wealth of information on how to work with nature to maintain our lawns and gardens in ways that are beneficial to the ecology and in many cases save us time and money.

For those who are looking for simple ideas that are easy to implement, consider the following:

- When planting new grass or over seeding your lawn, use a variety of grasses, especially grasses that are native to this region.
- Save water and don't water lawns—they will naturally turn brown in the peak of summer and regain their green color when cooler temperatures return in the fall.
- Limit lawn areas to where you need it—not steep slopes.
- Aerate, over seed, and top dress your lawn with compost in the fall.
- Grass clippings left on the lawn become good fertilizer and don't add to the landfill.
- Use natural pest control and organic slow-release fertilizers. Chemical fertilizers release nutrients too fast—the lawn responds quickly, but the grass then depends on more fertilizers.
- Only five percent of bugs are bad, so make sure you know what you are doing before using pesticides.

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**Mira Stepanovich**  
Contractor

- Mulch your gardens every spring. Mulch holds water and decomposes into materials that are good for plants.
- Leaves put into an open container or just a pile, and turned occasionally, become rich leaf compost or humus, a wonderful source of nutrition for plant life.
- One of the best things to do for your garden is to compost your garden and kitchen waste.

Every lawn is a combination of microenvironments: sunny, shady, damp, dry, clay soil, etc. For new gardens, consider native plants that thrive in the particular microclimate where you are planting.

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia has an excellent Web site with practical information you can use. Go to [www.audubonva.org/index.php/eco-friendly-landscaping](http://www.audubonva.org/index.php/eco-friendly-landscaping) and check out the links at the bottom of the page. A lot of work went into this site to make it easy to find just what you want, and it even includes a list of lawn and garden centers where you can shop for the plants you need. Merrifield Gardens is one of the places, and it happens to be close by. Check it out!

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**25th Annual National Night Out** - On Tuesday evening, 4 August, please join your neighbors and lock your doors, turn on your outside lights, and spend some time outside in the neighborhood. Consider contacting a few of your neighbors and organizing a pot luck dinner, or perhaps a dessert bar. The police and local politicians visit as many of these parties as they can, offering residents a great opportunity to ask questions related to crime and neighborhood safety.

You can also sit on your front porch, play games in your front yard, or take a walk in the neighborhood. Please participate if you can!

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## Fairfax Realty, Inc.



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