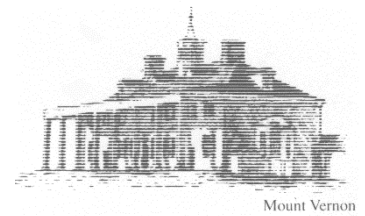




## **Dan Storck**

*Mount Vernon District Supervisor  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
2511 Parkers Lane  
Mount Vernon, VA 22306*



*Telephone: (703) 780-7518 E-mail: [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov)*

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## **Recognizing Cathy Ledec**

**Supervisor Dan Storck, Joint with Chairman Jeff McKay**

**May 24, 2022**

It is with sadness that I announce the departure of Cathy Ledec from the County Tree Commission (among many other duties and services to our community) due to her impending move out of the area. Cathy is a Tree Warrior and force of nature – by being a force FOR nature, with an intensity and focus that is truly remarkable and has served our natural world extremely well. She is a strong community activist, with a focus on environmentalism. Her achievements are not just volunteering, but also organizing, motivating others, demonstrating leadership, and serving as a role model and mentor.

Cathy has served on the Fairfax County Tree Commission since 2016, and as Chair since January 2019, until she recently stepped down as she plans to move out of the area. As Chair, Cathy led the creation of the 2019 Fairfax County Tree Action Plan, which was subsequently approved by the Board of Supervisors, and led to the institution of the Community of Practice in 2020. The Tree Commission and Urban Forestry brought together agencies and stakeholder organizations to work together to find ways to manage, improve and grow our urban forest in the Community of Practice. During Cathy's tenure, she led discussions and compiled research for the Commission to comment on a variety of County Board priorities, including solar projects and trees, the Joint County/Schools Environmental Task Force (JET) recommendations, land use decisions affecting trees, actions affecting trees in the Community Energy and Climate Action Plan's (CECAP), among others. The Commission also began producing annual reports to the Board of Supervisors under her leadership that include many tree recommendations and specific actions. As noted by the current Chair of the Tree Commission, Cindy Speas, "Cathy's

work made the Tree Commission more relevant in a changing environmental world through the adoption of the Tree Action Plan and the Community of Practice.”

Cathy has served on the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park since 2010 and as its elected President since 2012, where her leadership has contributed significantly to the long-term preservation of natural resources at Huntley Meadows and throughout Fairfax County. She volunteers with the Resource Management Division (RMD) of the County Park Authority (FCPA) assigned to Huntley Meadows, educating the public on the importance of being good environmental stewards and contributing to data collection supporting scientific research. Cathy has led countless cleanups, invasive species removals, bird counts, nature walks and organized volunteers for many other park activities. In 2020, Cathy received the Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award for 17 years of volunteer service at Huntley Meadows Park and for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The FCPA recently recognized Cathy for her service. Her advocacy on behalf of the FCPA has successfully educated many about the importance of a healthy environment in maintaining Fairfax County’s high quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors. Cathy frequents public hearings and provides testimony in support of FCPA’s annual budget, defends parkland from the impact of development projects, performs "hands-on" ecosystem restoration as a Site Leader for the FCPA's Invasive Management Area Program and actively participates in citizen science activities. From the Park Authority Board’s special resolution: “Ms. Ledec will be moving from Fairfax County, and we are left to hang on to the legacy she leaves behind; a legacy embodied in countless young people who have learned the ethos of environmental stewardship, the preservation and restoration of the wetlands at Huntley Meadows Park, and the example of what just one person can accomplish when they care about something as important as the environment.”

In 2015, she received the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society’s Distinguished Volunteer Service Award. She is active with the Mount Vernon Citizens’ Associations, Delegate Krizek’s Environmental Roundtable, Mount Vernon District Environmental Advisory Committee, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Pavilions at Huntington Metro Community Association, and served on the County’s CECAP. In 2018, Cathy was honored as Lady Fairfax for her service to our community and specifically for leading the

effort to plan, design, fund and install a Natural Landscaping project at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center. Cathy's passion as a champion for the environment is contagious and she has an unmatched ability to transform a bland terrain into a beautiful landscape. In 2019, she received the County's Environmental Excellence Award for her work on many local initiatives regarding natural resource protection, restoration and land use. That year she was also named the Fairfax County Federation's Citizen of the Year for her extensive service.

Cathy is truly a protector of our natural world, from every bee to every tree. Her knowledge of trees, natural landscaping, climate and environmental issues, living shorelines and so much more is unmatched, as is her passion and enthusiasm. She has a strong conviction that we must preserve what we have, improve what we can, lead by example and love Mother Earth. Cathy is an inspiration to us all and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors and new community!

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Public Affairs to prepare a proclamation to be presented to Cathy Ledec on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.



703-356-0551  
Fax 703-821-4275  
TTY 711

E-mail: dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov  
Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

McLean Governmental Center  
1437 Balls Hill Road  
McLean, VA. 22101



**JOHN W. FOUST**  
DRANESVILLE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

## JOINT BOARD MATTER

**Chairman McKay, Supervisor Foust, Supervisor Alcorn, Supervisor Gross, Supervisor Lusk, Supervisor Palchik, Supervisor Smith, Supervisor Storck, Supervisor Walkinshaw  
May 24, 2022**

### PROCLAIMING JUNE 2022 AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Background:** In celebration of the County’s richly diverse population, this Board has repeatedly affirmed its commitment to promoting a culture of openness, inclusiveness, and acceptance for *all* persons in Fairfax County. We appreciate that by embracing and celebrating our individual identities, we become a better County and grow stronger as a community.

This Board has espoused that Fairfax County exemplifies values of respect and acceptance, and that we welcome and celebrate one another's differences and cultural backgrounds. Fairfax County has zero tolerance for harassment and other forms of discrimination. We believe that all residents deserve an equitable opportunity to succeed if they work hard—regardless of their race, color, sex, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, income, or where they live.

Each year since 2013, this Board has declared June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month in Fairfax County. Before LGBT Pride became a celebration, it started out as a protest. In 1969, The Stonewall riots began in response to a police raid at the Stonewall Inn, a bar located in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Manhattan, New York, that served as a safe haven for the city’s LGBTQ+ community. While police had raided gay establishments before, on that night, members of the LGBTQ+ community decided to fight back, sparking an uprising that would launch a new era of resistance that would later turn to celebration.

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1970, on the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the first Pride parade set off from Stonewall. Since then, every June, Pride Month celebrates the self-affirmation, dignity, equality and increased visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. The month-long celebration was given the name "Pride" to encourage those feelings as the community comes together to celebrate and bolster the LGBTQ+ rights movements. It is also a way for the community to protest discrimination and violence and increase society's awareness of the issues they face.

In 2017, this Board adopted a Resolution of Diversity and Inclusion, amended county employment policies to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and adopted One Fairfax, a joint social and racial equity policy of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the County School Board.

As the Chairman has previously announced, Fairfax County was recently recognized by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and the Equality Federation Institute for its significant efforts to ensure equality, inclusion and non-discrimination for members of the LGBTQ+ community. The County received the highest possible score (100 points) on their Municipal Equality Index (MEI). Municipalities are rated based on non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement, and leadership on LGBTQ+ equality. The MEI is the nation's premier benchmarking tool to understand how well municipalities across the nation are providing for LGBTQ+ inclusion in their laws, policies, and services.

In recent years, the Commonwealth of Virginia has also made good progress towards equality for LGBTQ+ people. Some examples of that progress include:

- Adding sexual orientation and gender identity to Virginia's hate crime laws.
- Allowing localities to enact their own non-discrimination protections against sexual orientation and gender identity.

- Adopting the ‘Virginia Values Act’ to provide nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people in employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations. (This bill was the first of its kind in the Southern United States.)
- Establishing a Virginia LGBTQ+ Advisory Board.
- Expanding the step-parent adoption provision to include non-biological and/or non-gestational parents.
- Eliminating the “gay panic defense”. (Virginia is one of only 12 states, plus the District of Columbia, to ban the defense.)

Despite these and other changes in laws and social attitudes, subtle and overt prejudice continues against LGBTQ+ people in our county, Commonwealth, country and around the world. Nationwide, nearly 200 bills have been introduced by state lawmakers that would restrict protections for transgender and gay youth or discussion of LGBTQ+ topics in public schools. That is nearly four times the number of similar bills introduced three years ago.

Unfortunately, with the recent leak of the Supreme Court’s draft opinion, reversal of the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision appears likely. That draft opinion also makes clear that critical civil rights laws are increasingly vulnerable, including precedent that granted Americans the right to same-sex relationships and marriage equality.

With this history and with these and other threats to the basic human rights of LGBTQ+ members of our community in the background, we believe it is imperative for this Board, along with County employees and County residents, to continue to stand up, speak out and show support for those who face prejudice and discrimination.

**Motion:** Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we move that the Board of Supervisors proclaim June 2022 as “LGBTQ+ Pride Month” in Fairfax County and invite representatives of the LGBTQ+ community and their supporters to come before the Board at its June 7, 2022, meeting to receive the proclamation.



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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**Supervisor Pat Herrity**

**Jointly with Chairman McKay, Supervisor Gross, Supervisor Foust, Supervisor Smith,  
Supervisor Storck, and Supervisor Palchik**

**Board Matter**

**May 24, 2022**

**Recognizing the Service of Assistant Superintendent Jeffery K. Platenberg**

**Background:** Jeffery K. Platenberg has been with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) for twenty years, serving as a valuable partner to both the Fairfax County Board and our School Board with his record of successful and innovative leadership working with us and local agencies, other governing bodies, and diverse constituencies. As the assistant superintendent of facilities and transportation services, he has successfully worked to resolve conflicts in creative ways that best support the needs of our students, educators, and the community. He has partnered with members of our Board on many difficult issues to include:

- addressing long-standing overcrowding in a densely developed neighborhood by creatively reconfiguring commercial office space into a state-of-the-art urban elementary school,
- identifying over \$88M additional annual capital bond capacity for schools and an over \$13M annual infrastructure replacement upgrade funding
- garnering proffer contributions to include school site and individual per unit fees to help defray capital expense impact of new development
- fostering enhanced collaboration and cooperation between FCPS, Fairfax County Government, and Fairfax County Park Authority staff to improve partnerships and opportunities for colocation of services to help address needs countywide

Throughout his career with FCPS, Platenberg has continually been recognized for his efforts including leadership in energy efficiency, sustainability, and strategic growth. Platenberg was selected as the 2012 Association of School Business Officials International Eagle award recipient, the 2013 Education Week Leader to Learn From, and the 2015 Bammy Award Recipient for 'What is Right in Education.' He has also provided services to the U.S. Department of State, Office of Overseas Schools. Currently, he serves on the Fairfax County Economic Advisory Commission, the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT), and the Fairfax County Revitalization Committee Building Repositioning work group.

Perhaps the most thankless component of his many years of service is for the joy he has given many of our students as the official designator of snow days. While FCPS students may not know his name or see his work behind the scenes, all of them have benefited from his diligent leadership making sure that their travel to school, stay at school, and journey home from school is safe.

**Motion:** Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I ask without objection that staff prepare a resolution recognizing Platenberg's service to our community and Fairfax County Public Schools to be presented at an upcoming Board meeting.

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**SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY  
SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT  
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

6140 Rolling Road  
Springfield, VA 22152

703-451-8873 TTY 711 Fax 703-451-3047