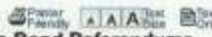


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### Fairfax Board Authorizes 2016 Transportation, Parks and Human Services Bond Referendums

June 21, 2016

#### News Highlights

- Board of Supervisors authorize a transportation, parks and human services bond questions for Nov. 8, 2016, general election.
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The Petition for a Permanent Senior Center for Springfield District, the only district without a permanent senior center in Fairfax County.

1. 2007 - Corazon Foley initiated request for permanent Springfield Senior Center in South Run Park. County officials informed her that there was no money nor staff so Cora suggested compromise "Senior Center Without Walls" as a temporary measure to help seniors until County can fund senior centers. BWSSCWoW was a success with 1,000+ participants but participating churches have been dropping out and sustainability could only be maintained if county paid churches -- and in 2013, County approved new Providence Senior Center (opened 2015). Meanwhile BWSSCWoW Seniors have had to use corridors, parking lots and sidewalks when promised facilities would become unavailable.
2. 2013-2015: Petition Signatures (1,000+); Meeting with Pat Herrity (November 14, 2014 when his remarks implied that Springfield voters did not support our petition; November 3, 2015 - Corazon Foley electoral campaign for Springfield Senior Center garnered 19% (4,228 votes) of the Springfield votes, proving that Springfield voters supported the petition; November 21, 2015 - Senior Demonstration at Government Center when Chairman Sharon Bulova pledged support for BWSSCWoW Petition.
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Corazon Foley, the founding chairman of the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls speaks to supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield).



Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) meets with Corazon Foley and representatives from the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls.

## With or Without Walls Seniors in Burke and West Springfield look for more activity space.

By Tim Peterson  
The Connection

**L**arry Mark is 83, lives in West Springfield and practices tai chi with his wife Mary. They go to a class that meets once a week at the Burke Conservancy on Burke Centre Parkway. "It's interesting," he said. "It helps your balance and strengthens your neck and other muscles. Everybody needs better balance."

Mark also volunteers as the class "monitor." Basically, he takes attendance and reports it to a coordinator. The class costs \$5 for an eight-week session, but he gets a pain on that for monitoring. Volunteers help keep the class cost down, the fees go to Fairfax County to pay the instructors.

This tai chi class is part of the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWoW), an initiative offering a variety of activities for the elderly. In addition to the tai chi, classes include line-dancing, yoga, zumba, Hawaiian hula, self-defense, ballroom dancing, walking club, book history, genealogy and outside trips.

The BWSSCWoW is the project of Corazon Foley, a retired Burke resident. She got the idea after driving the 80-year-old women from her church, Church of the Nativity in Burke, to the Lorton Senior Center for Active Adults off Route 1.

"Every time I pick them up," Foley said, "they'd say, 'Oh Cora, why do we have to go all the way over there? Why can't we have something nearer here?'" That was shortly after Foley retired in 2007.

EVEN WITH OVER A DOZEN senior centers around Fairfax County, Foley and the ladies decided they needed a space to be active together that was more local to them. Foley said she approached then-Braddock district Supervisor Sharon Bulova about the feasibility of building a new facility in their district.



Photos by Tim Peterson/The Connection  
Pacita Aguas of Burke came to the Fairfax County Government center to help represent the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls.

"The answer was the same," said Foley. "Sorry, Cora, there's no money; nor staff to get a senior center over here."

Foley started approaching churches and other locations in Burke and West Springfield about opening up space, but didn't get very far without liability coverage from the county. She ended up working with Ivan Bruff, the Regional Manager for Fairfax County's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services.

Bruff suggested a network of sites for activities, following models used in other states, creating a "center without walls." He was able to help Foley get liability cover-

age and soon the BWSSCWoW had homes at Acotank United Universalist Church and the Burke Conservancy in Burke, the Durga Temple in Fairfax Station and Washington Irving Middle School in Springfield, among other locations.

They ran one pilot class in the summer of 2009. Line-dancing. Over 70 seniors registered. Mark was there at the beginning. "We expanded in that fall," he said, "and have been expanding ever since then. We have 1,200 to 1,400 names on master list, with around 150 that are registered for 16 classes in different subjects at any one time."

Foley is proud of the opportunities the center offers the swelling senior population. "We provide them with physical fitness, intellectual fitness and social fitness," she said, "to give them

"The classes have become however, that they've become and more difficult to get into. We're waiting for the Board of Supervisors' Sept. 9 passage of the Budget Carryover prompts approach Springfield district supervisor Pat Herry about whether those funds could be re-purposed to help create a dedicated space for BWSSCWoW."

Herry invited Foley to the Fairfax Government Center on Nov. 13. Foley brought a number of options to the table, centered around Potomac Regional Library on Sykes Road in Burke as a potential site. She was joined by several seniors including Pacita Aguas of Gardens, who helped Foley state her case.

Citing a library renovation planned for next year, Foley requested have flooring added to the library's ex-

conference room and to have priority in making reservations for the room. More significantly, she asked that an expansion be built on the back of the library to house many of the center's classes.

HERRY ACKNOWLEDGED there is a need to help active seniors. But, he said of the Potomac proposal, "If we go this route, does this take the senior center off the table and do you get a half a solution instead of a full solution for Springfield?"

Chris Leonard, Director of Neighborhood and Community Services, was at the meeting as well. He shared county budget documentation dating back to FY 2009 for a new Springfield community center in the "beyond five-year planning stage for construction." That would include a senior center, he said.

"When you're dealing with the budget within Fairfax County, there's over three

# Pacita Espina Aguas

Posted on Wednesday, 25th May 2016 | Annapolis  
(<http://maryland.obituaries.funeral.com/category/annapolis/>)



(<http://www.adventfuneral.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Aguas-1.jpg>) Pacita Espina Aguas of Burke Virginia passed away peacefully on May 24, 2016. She is survived by children Bobby Aguas, Cynthia Dela Cuesta, Edgar Aguas, Ivy Caro and Odette Mydlow; grandchildren Raymond Caro, Charles Dela

Remembering Seniors who worked to develop senior health programs of the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWoW) and for the petition for permanent senior center in Springfield District, the only district without a permanent senior center. In particular, we thank Pacita Aguas (1925 - 2016) who in 2007 supported Cora Foley in petitioning for a Springfield Senior Center in South Run Park; helped develop the compromise concept of the Senior Center Without Walls because county officials said there was no staff nor money; participated in November 2014 meeting with Herry -- and sadly, passed on ahead of us on May 24, 2016. Memory of Pacita and other departed seniors has assisted us in continuing the pursuit of the much-needed Springfield Community/Senior Center.

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Human Services - CSB - A New Beginning/Empire Detox Renovation	\$4 million	Sully

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