**LFI’s Lifetime Leadership Program. . . This Isn’t Your Parents’ Retirement**!

Maria Vorel left a highly visible and successful career in Federal service to explore ways to become involved and make a difference in Fairfax County. As Maria said, when she found Leadership Fairfax’s Lifetime Leadership Program (LLP) in 2013, she was “into renewing, refocusing and starting anew.” While in LLP, following a class session on Fairfax County Government, Maria immediately contacted her local Supervisor and was appointed to the Fairfax Commission for Women. Maria sums it up: “*LLP provided me the springboard I was looking for to become actively involved in Fairfax County in several areas, both in service and in taking advantage of the enriching activities abundant in the County*.”

For those newly retired or contemplating retirement in the near future, Leadership Fairfax’s Lifetime Leadership Program (LLP) is a key step in defining and creating a meaningful and fulfilling retirement experience. The program is designed for those individuals who have accumulated a lifetime of leadership skills and expertise and now seek to use this knowledge to make a difference in their lives and in their communities.

LLP is offered in partnership with Volunteer Fairfax, and is supported by the Positive Aging Coalition and George Mason University. With the firepower this leadership alliance brings to the Lifetime Leadership Program, participants identify and clarify their personal leadership skills and preferences for future civic engagement; explore current issues in the Fairfax County community and opportunities for civic engagement; and establish a network of lifetime leaders within Leadership Fairfax and Fairfax County. In fact, connections continue beyond the class experience - following the end of the 2013 program, Maria and other class participants continued to work together as a volunteer team to design an Advisory Council and management system for RSVP, the senior program of Volunteer Fairfax.

Janice Sutera Wolfe, a graduate of the inaugural LLP class of 2012, summarized her experience as follows: *“The Lifetime Leadership Program provided me with direct exposure to key contacts and broadened my knowledge of ways to think about and use my time and talents in the Fairfax County community. Actively engaging with other retired leaders expanded my thinking and continues to enrich my decisions.”*

The next class of LLP will begin Wednesday, September 24, 2014, and run for 5 class meetings over 2 ½ months.

For those interested in learning more about the program, Leadership Fairfax will host three information sessions at its office, located at 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 100, Vienna, VA:

* + - Wednesday, June 25, 2014, 11:00am – 12:00pm
    - Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 1:00pm – 2:00pm
    - Wednesday, August 13, 2014, 1:00pm – 2:00 pm

To register for an information session, please call the Leadership Fairfax Office at (703) 752-7555 or email [moniek@leadershipfairfax.org](mailto:moniek@leadershipfairfax.org).

The online Application for the 2014 Lifetime Leadership Program is now available on the [Leadership Fairfax website](https://www.leadershipfairfax.org/LLP).