



# HERRITY REPORT



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## February, 2008

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- **West Springfield High School Renovation and South County Middle School Proposal**

Two items of concern often brought to my attention as I went door to door before the election were the renovation of West Springfield High School (WSHS) and the need for a Middle School for South County. Being a 1978 graduate of WSHS, I am concerned about what I've seen and heard regarding of the conditions of this legacy school. I am planning to tour the school with the principal and PTA president for a firsthand look at the problems the students and staff have to deal with on a day-to-day basis. At this point in time, the school's renovation is not on the FCPS CIP through 2018. I believe the WSHS Community deserves better than this and I am working with the School Board to get this placed on the 2009-2013 CIP. Additionally, I agree with many of my constituents that construction of a Middle School for South County should start no later than 2012. There is already a current need for this school, and with the imminent surge of new residents, both military and support staff, coming to the area as a result of Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC), construction of a middle school for the area is an absolute necessity. Last year, the Board of Supervisors set aside \$2 million for Fairfax County Public Schools to use specifically to address BRAC-related concerns. I agree, along with Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland, that these funds should be used for design and planning of the middle school. There is a time sensitive aspect to this need as well; the land currently set aside for this project may be lost if construction does not begin by 2012. I recently testified in favor of both of these projects at the School Board CIP hearing held on January 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to read the testimony I presented, visit my website at the following link:

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf\\_files/fcps\\_cip\\_comments\\_1-9-08.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/fcps_cip_comments_1-9-08.pdf)

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- **Winston Knolls Civic Association Sign Replacement**

If it isn't up by the time you are reading this, the new community sign for Winston Knolls should be completed soon. Since the community was built in the late 1970s, its community sign was a simple one; wooden and mounted on two posts. When members of the Winston Knolls Civic Association (WKCA) decided to replace the current sign with a more modern, cement one, they were unaware how much of a task they had ahead of them. Because the sign was not being replaced with one of similar construction, it turned out the community would need to obtain a sign maintenance agreement with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), whose land it had been and would continue to be located on. FCPA's approval of the sign maintenance agreement was contingent on several items: a site permit from the Department of Public Works, a sign permit from the Department of Planning and Zoning, and confirmation from the Virginia Department of Transportation that the sign did not interfere with sight distance or encroach on the state right-of-way. These numerous "hoops" to jump through (including several other issues that came up during the process) before the sign maintenance agreement could be executed proved a daunting task. This project would likely not have been completed were it not for the perseverance of former WKCA president Bonnie Olsen and the members of the sign committee. My office looks forward to working with the new WKCA board and community in the months and years to come.

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- **Creating an Online Budget and Expenditure Database for the Citizens of Fairfax County**

Have you ever tried to figure out where all the money goes in Fairfax County? Currently, the county makes all of the information available but you would have to spend hours pouring through documents to find out how much Fairfax County spends on any given item. The fact that this information is not readily accessible is a problem that needs to be addressed.

At the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Board Meeting I introduced a motion to create an online budget and expenditure database that will give all of Fairfax County's taxpayers a simple and easy way to examine how and where their tax dollars are being spent.

The Board instructed county staff to investigate the cost of this measure as well as how we would implement it and is due to report to back to us at the March 8<sup>th</sup> county budget workshop. For more information, [read the press release \(pdf format\)](#).

([http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf\\_files/budget\\_database\\_press\\_release.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/budget_database_press_release.pdf))

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- **Testifying in front of the State Corporation Committee**

On January 14, 2008, I testified before the State Corporation Commission in support for the 500kv Meadowbrook-Loudoun transmission line proposed by Dominion Virginia Power. I, along with a number of citizens and businesses in this region, stepped forward to support the line which will ensure reliable energy needed to sustain Northern Virginia's economy and quality of life.

[My testimony is available online](#) (pdf format) at

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf\\_files/scs\\_statement.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/scs_statement.pdf)

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## Newman Road Designated Scenic Byway

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### Springfield Days

The annual Springfield Days event will be celebrating its 20th year in 2008, from May 29th through June 1st. Supervisor Jeff McKay and I recently presented a motion to the Board of Supervisors declaring Springfield Days on May 29, 30, 31, and June 1, 2008 and inviting the Springfield Days Committee to come before the Board for recognition. For more information on the events (including the Springfield Days Parade that features the marching dogs of Springfield) read the [motion](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/Springfield_Days_2008.pdf) on the event that was passed by the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on January 28, 2008 ([http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf\\_files/Springfield\\_Days\\_2008.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/Springfield_Days_2008.pdf)).

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### Changes to I-66 Shoulder Lanes and HOV Slip Ramps

I recently learned that VDOT has plans to open the shoulder lanes on I-66 an extra hour during both the morning and evening weekday commutes. During the morning rush, the lanes will be open until 11 a.m.; in the evening, the lanes will open an hour earlier, at 2 p.m. This may happen as early as April. A letter is going to be sent to VDOT on behalf of the entire Board of Supervisors in support of exploring the opening of these shoulder lanes during peak hours of congestion on the weekend as well. Additionally, the Board is also asking VDOT to consider opening the HOV slip ramps to Monument Drive and Stringfellow Road to all traffic outside of HOV hours, if it can be done safely. For more information, read the [joint board matter](#) Supervisor Michael Frey and I presented.

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- **NOTICE: Homeowner and Civic Associations**

My office relies on you to keep us updated on your leadership changes and meeting times. If you have had any recent changes in your organization please send the information to John Nolan of my staff via e-mail at: [John.Nolan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:John.Nolan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Thanks!

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- **Meet my Staff**

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