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- **[Board Endorses Corridor Improvement Study for Fairfax County Parkway:](#)** A Corridor Improvement Study is the next critical step to address the growing congestion on the Fairfax County Parkway. The Parkway is predicted to have interstate highway traffic levels by 2030.
- **[Have You Ever Considered Adoption?:](#)** As an adoptive parent, I was honored to participate in Governor McDonnell's kick off of the campaign for 1,000 adoptions. This initiative which will aim to match kids that are about to "age out" of the foster care system with adoptive parents to give them a forever home. Please read the article below and share with anyone you think would be open to adoption.
- **[Virginia Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday this Weekend:](#)** Don't forget to take advantage of the sales tax holiday this weekend when school shopping for your kids.
- **[Delegate LeMunyon Found me \\$50!:](#)** Delegate Jim LeMunyon in an email earlier in the month detailed how Virginia's Treasury Department maintains an Unclaimed Property Division. See below for how I found \$50 that was owed to me that I didn't know about.
- **[Parking Lot Improvements at South Run Park:](#)** The Park Authority is adding 144 parking spaces to the park, among other improvements. Full details below.

## **Board Endorses Corridor Improvement Study for Fairfax County Parkway**

At yesterday's Board of Supervisors' meeting the Board voted unanimously to send a letter to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to request a Corridor Improvement Study (CIS) on the Fairfax County Parkway. I asked the Board to request the study on the Parkway on February 12th, 2013 as the next step to address the ever increasing congestion on the road and to continue the visioning process that began at the Parkway Town Hall I hosted on October 23rd, 2012.

We have had some great successes in improving the Parkway including:

- Working with Dominion Power and VDOT, I was able to shave one to two years off the construction schedule for the Fair Lakes and Fairfax County Parkway grade separated intersection by accelerating utility relocation.
- I led the successful effort to have the Parkway reclassified in the state system from a secondary road to a primary road to make it eligible for more state maintenance and construction funding.
- After several crossover fatalities Delegate Albo and I requested VDOT commission a safety study that will result in safety improvements (including installation of guardrail and median barriers) on dangerous sections of the Parkway.
- I led the successful effort to obtain funding for the two-lane North Loop of the Parkway at Rolling Road so traffic travelling from the NGA and continuing northbound on the Parkway doesn't back up onto the main road.

Even with these improvements, the Parkway is experiencing significant congestion. A CIS will provide a comprehensive look at what improvements need to be made to the Parkway in order to keep up with interstate level traffic projected in 2030. The study will outline short and long term solutions, examine various methods for increasing capacity such as grade separated interchanges, adding a third lane, analyzing the feasibility of HOT and HOV lanes, and calculate which solutions will provide the greatest congestion relief and the highest benefit for the cost.

This study will not delay the improvements that are currently underway on the Parkway, including the addition of a lane on the southbound Parkway between Route 29 and Braddock Road (construction should begin next spring) or the planning for the Popes Head Road grade separated interchange.

As one of our "main streets", the future of the Parkway is essential to the future of Fairfax County and we must ensure that we get ahead of the ever increasing congestion. This study will outline our options, both long and short term, to keep the Parkway moving, and ensure the health of one of the County's most important transportation corridors.

## **Have You Ever Considered Adoption?**

At yesterday's meeting the Board declared the day "Campaign for 1,000 Day" in Fairfax County and attended a kick-off of Governor McDonnell's Campaign for 1,000 initiative - an effort to match 1,000 adoptive parents to 1,000 children in foster care. The need for adoption is great as there are 4,000 children currently in Virginia's foster care system, with over 1,000 of those kids ready for adoption and waiting for their forever home. Every year kids in foster care "age out" of the system, and statistics show that for every 100 children who age out of the foster care system without being adopted 54 become homeless, and 94 do not graduate from college. These kids are also less likely to finish high school, less likely to have stable housing, more likely to commit crimes, and more likely to have a child out of wedlock.

As an adoptive parent this issue is close to my heart, and one that I commend Governor McDonnell and Secretary of the Commonwealth Kelly for raising. As for my own experience, I can honestly say it is one of the most rewarding things our family has ever done. It is hard to talk about Valeria as our "adopted" daughter because we consider her our daughter. When the opportunity to adopt a 9 year old girl arose in 2002, it was the last thing my wife Nancy, my son Sean and I thought we would be doing that summer. The statistics above are shocking, and it is hard to imagine where our daughter would be today if:

- she had not received the many hours of instruction and shed the tears as Nancy taught her that she really could learn and caught her up to grade level, or
- where she would be without the guidance all young women need as they go through high school and the challenges of applying and getting to college, or
- where she would be without people (and our dog) to call family, people to trust and confide in, and to love.

I couldn't be prouder of our daughter and I am happy to say that in two weeks she will be a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Culinary School, and will be starting her first job in the culinary industry.

It is not often you are presented with the opportunity to have such a meaningful and significant impact on a life, and I am glad we embraced the opportunity when it arose. My brother and sister have also adopted and have found the experience rewarding. We are lucky the chance to adopt fell on our laps. I would like to again thank the Governor for making sure all families in Virginia are aware of this opportunity.

I urge all Herrity Report readers to find out more information on the initiative by visiting <http://www.virginiaadopts.virginia.gov/> and share the thought of adoption with your friends.

### **Virginia Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday this Weekend**

I would like to remind you of the upcoming annual back-to-school sales tax holiday, which runs August 2nd through the 4th. During these three days, certain school supplies, clothing, and footwear will be exempt from the Virginia sales tax.

As in past years, a variety of school supplies, including notebooks, pens, binders, calculators, paints and crayons, will be tax-free as long as each item costs \$20 or less. Most clothing items and footwear will also be exempt from the state sales tax as long as they are priced at \$100 or less each. There is no limit on the number of items you can purchase tax-free as long as each item qualifies.

The sales tax holiday is available to everyone - not just those preparing for school - and all Virginia retailers who sell the exempt products must participate. During the sales tax holiday, retailers may also choose to save taxpayers even more by opting to pay the sales tax themselves on items that are not exempt under the guidelines.

To view a full list of the items that are included in the sales tax holiday, along with guidelines and frequently asked questions for both consumers and retailers, please [click here](#).

### **Delegate LeMunyon Found me \$50!**

Kudos to Delegate Jim LeMunyon who in an email earlier in the month detailed how Virginia's Treasury Department maintains an Unclaimed Property Division that provides a clearinghouse for people, businesses, and government agencies who owe money or property but can't find the owner.

Interested to see whether a long lost relative had issued a bond for me when I was a kid that could now be worth millions, I decided to enter my information into the website; and although my payout didn't hit the jackpot, the \$50 that was owed to me did help towards the grocery bill for that week and was a nice surprise.

If you would like to see if this unit of state government is holding money or property for you, you can do so by [clicking here](#).

## **Parking Lot Improvements at South Run Park**

The Fairfax County Park Authority have begun work on parking lot improvements at South Run Park. The contractor is currently on site to construct 144 new parking spaces, renovate the existing spaces, and construct four underground stormwater detention facilities, sidewalks, and landscaping. Construction access to the park will be from the Fairfax County Parkway. Completion of the project is scheduled for December.

There will be a minimum of 100 parking spaces that will remain available during the construction, and Reservation Drive will remain open for public access for the duration of the project.

If you have questions regarding the project feel free to call 703-324-8770 or email [Deepak.bhinge@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Deepak.bhinge@fairfaxcounty.gov).