



**August 8, 2018**

### **Drones and Pole-Mounted Radar Signs**

#### **Pole-Mounted Radar Signs Being Investigated as a Way to Address Cut Through Traffic**

My motion to investigate the costs associated with procuring pole-mounted radar signs with data collection capability for both the Fairfax County Police Department and our Department of Transportation and to investigate the feasibility and effort required to share the speed data between departments was approved by the Board.

#### **Drones Policy Under Review**

The Board unanimously voted to delay making a decision on the use of drones by Fairfax County. While I believe drones can be used as a positive tool in many forms including mapping, public safety, assessing natural disasters, and transportation management, I also understand the privacy concerns and the nuisance of drones raised by many of my constituents.

#### **Center Road Walkway & Road Improvement Project**

Construction schedule adjusted but moving forward.

#### **Community Happenings**

- **TONIGHT!** Free Concerts in the Park - Wednesdays 7 pm at Burke Lake Park through Aug 22
- League of Women Voters 11th CD Forum - Sept 16

## **Pole-Mounted Radar Signs Being Investigated as a Way to Address Cut Through Traffic**

At our meeting on July 31, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved my motion to investigate the costs associated with procuring pole-mounted radar signs with data collection capability for both the Fairfax County Police Department and our Department of Transportation (FCDOT) and to investigate the feasibility and effort required to share the speed data between departments.

With the advent of road navigation apps, we've seen an increase in speeding and cut-through traffic on our neighborhood streets. One of the tools that our Police Department has in its toolbox to help address this issue is pole mounted speed display signs. Unlike the conventional speed trailers the FCPD has used in the past that require a truck to tow them to and from a location, these are easily mounted onto existing signage. With the knowledge that we simply cannot have continuous police enforcement on each of our community roadways, these pole mounted speed display signs can be a great traffic calming option to offer our residents that doesn't require extensive police resources nor entail the lengthy more permanent traffic calming process. These signs are effective if utilized frequently, yet with locations rotated so drivers in our communities don't become used to seeing them and thus begin ignoring them. Currently the police department has ten of these units Countywide.

These pole mounted speed display signs also have the capability to collect speed and volume data, with additional options to have this information sent immediately to the cloud in real time. Currently, data collected by the police department signs is retained by the police and the data collected by FCDOT (using stealth pads) for the R-TAP program is retained by FCDOT. I think there is an opportunity to more efficiently and more accurately analyze traffic volumes and speeds if the data was collected and maintained in a central location that could be shared by the FCPD, FCDOT and other state or local departments with interest.

An example where this data could have been utilized was a recent residential development in Burke that required street light installation as part of the project. The type of streetlight installed is determined by the County's Department of Public Works based on the traffic volume on the roadway. The traffic volume information used was provided by VDOT via its list of Annual Average Daily Traffic Volume (AADT) for each street. Though it is from VDOT's most current AADT, the actual data for the roadway in question was collected in 2001. Had we been in the position to share or otherwise have access to more current data collected by FCDOT for a cut-through project on the same roadway in late 2016, different streetlights would have been installed.

I will keep you apprised of this effort to keep our neighborhoods safer and the County government more efficient. Also at this meeting, Supervisor Cook requested funding to procure additional yellow "Slow Down--You Live Here, We Live Here" yard signs to help address speeding in our neighborhoods.

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## **Drones Policy Under Review**

At its regular meeting on July 31, the Board unanimously voted to delay making a decision to explore the use of drones by the police, first responders and other potential users in Fairfax County. While I believe drones can be used as a positive tool in many forms including mapping, public safety, assessing natural disasters and transportation management, I also understand the privacy concerns and the nuisance of drones raised by many of my constituents. Delaying the vote will allow me to receive more input from residents in Fairfax County so I can make a more informed decision on this important issue.

Many stakeholders in Fairfax County including staff from the Office of Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Department, Police Department, Sheriff's Office, Office of the County Attorney, Office of Public Affairs, and Risk Management began meeting in May 2017 to develop a conceptual design for a public safety Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program. If this program is approved it will need to adhere to strict FAA guidelines in order to be implemented. UAS programs have been implemented in localities throughout the country including the Commonwealth of Virginia and as many of you have seen drones have been used as an important tool battling the wildfires in California.

I have included a link to the [draft UAS Program Manual](#) (starting on page 202) which addresses many issues including operational policies and procedures and safeguards to protect individual's rights to privacy. The manual will be reviewed routinely and revised as required due to any legislative, regulatory, or policy revisions, best practices, or any change in the concept of operations. In addition, a UAS web site will be created that will include timely information, changes in policy, a flight alert system and allow for questions and complaints. This will be coupled with an outreach program before any kind of implementation. The Board is not expected to vote on this issue until late fall and I would appreciate your feedback.

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## **Center Road Walkway and Road Improvement Project**

Since my last Herrity Report update on this project in 2017, Fairfax County has completed design and land acquisition for this undertaking that will add a five foot sidewalk with curb and gutter along the south (school) side of Center Road from West Springfield High School to Garden Road. Also included are storm drainage improvements and a retaining wall for a portion of the project. Additionally, the road will be widened in two sections to provide for a minimum road width of 24 feet.

Utility relocation is wrapping up and Fairfax County staff are currently working with the

Virginia Department of Transportation on permit approval. Due to delays in the utility relocation process the construction start date was pushed back. The project should go to bid and be awarded this winter with construction beginning in late spring/early summer. My office will host a "Pardon our Dust" meeting in advance of construction so residents will have an idea of what to expect once it commences. While it is not uncommon for improvement projects' construction start dates to be pushed back for one reason or another, I share residents' frustration in the delays and am committed to working with FCDOT and VDOT to ensure that VDOT's permit approval process does not delay the project further.

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### **Free Summer Concert Series: Springfield Nights**



**The Colin Thompson Band** joined by **special guest Mark Wenner of the Nighthawks** will be headlining our Springfield Nights Summer Concert Series **TONIGHT**, Wednesday, August 8, 7 pm at Burke Lake Park.

Placed #21 on The Alternate Root's list of top roots music guitar players, Colin Thompson has toured Europe numerous times, received raving national and international reviews. His music has been heard on satellite and terrestrial radio all over the US, Europe, and Australia. Already a seasoned performer at his young age, he has developed a playing style that is his own. Often compared by the press to other great slide guitar players (Sonny Landreth, Duane Allman, Derek Trucks, Lowell George), his playing is a fresh and unique combination of all his influences mixed with his own unique spin. He has been reviewed by the Associated Press and No Depression magazine describing his guitar style as, "Inventive" and "Vibrant". Check him out at his [website](#), on [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Kicking off the evening, Michelle Li, Chaewon Kim, Katie Kim, and Isaac Choi from Centreville High School will be playing a few songs as a string quartet.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for every Wednesday between now and August 22 for 7 pm at Burke Lake Park!

August 8 - [The Colin Thompson Band](#) (Blues/Rock)

August 15 - [Dr. FU](#) (Rock/Cover Band)

August 22 - [The Johnny Artis Band](#) (R&B)

A huge "thank you" to all of the sponsors that make this concert series possible! If your business or organization would like to be a featured sponsor next year, please don't hesitate to reach out!



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## **League of Women Voter's 11th Congressional District Forum**

You are invited to the Candidate Forum for Congressional District 11 on Sunday, September 16th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030. The three candidates featured are Jeff A. Dove (R), Gerald E. ("Gerry") Connolly (D) (Incumbent), and Stevan M. Porter (L). The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is a non-partisan organization. Learn more at [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org).