



Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay

Lee District Update

Join Me at the Lee District Open House

**Saturday
January 25, 2014**

**from
1:00-3:00 PM**

**Community Room
Franconia
Government Center
6121 Franconia Rd.**

I know it seems far away, but please mark your calendar for the next Open House in January. Chat with me and my staff and enjoy the delicious pastries made by students in the Edison Academy Culinary Arts program.

As always, the talented artists of the Springfield Art Guild will have a display of their work.

Dear Lee District Neighbor,

Change keeps its own clock, one that runs fast or slow according to events we don't always control. Almost twenty years ago when I began my career with the County, constituent contact was a much slower process. Letters or phone calls were the usual way of communicating and emails were few and far between. Now, almost all communication with constituents is by email and personal conversations around the district.

Even with all these changes, there have been constants—transportation issues, for example. While our overall regional transportation needs continue to grow, we benefitted locally from some recent project approvals. Route One is being widened from Telegraph Road to Mount Vernon Highway, thanks to \$180 million in federal funding. The new connector road between Telegraph Road and Route One near Hayfield is nearing completion and the Telegraph Road/South Kings Highway intersection improvement will unblock one of our major chokepoints.

The best kind of change builds on our sense of place. As a kid, I looked forward to my Christmas visit to Santa at Springfield Mall. With the ongoing renovation of the new Springfield Town Center my kids and yours can have the same experience. The mall rebuild and the new Wegmans Center are changing the face and future of our district in a positive way.

When my daughter was born, the only fully-accessible playground in Fairfax County was Clemijontri in McLean. I'm proud that in 2011 Our Special Harbor sprayground and treehouse at Lee District Park opened and now all of our children have a great new playground nearby.

Even with all this change one thing remains constant—Lee District will continue to thrive with our strong neighborhoods and deep community ties.

As we enter the holiday season, best wishes to you and yours. May 2014 be a happy and a healthy year for all.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. McKay

Contact Us!

**Phone: 703-971-6262 • Email: leedistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/ or follow me on Facebook and Twitter**

**6121 Franconia Road • Alexandria, VA 22310
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

Transportation Update

The transportation bill passed by the General Assembly is not perfect, but for the first time in years it has taken a substantial bite out of our transportation crisis. Crisis is the right word. Not only was there no money for new projects, but the state had drained most of its maintenance dollars—obvious from the condition of our roads.



Delegate Vivian Watts, Supervisor McKay, Chairman Sharon Bulova, Jack Mutarelli and Delegate Mark Sickles at the ribbon cutting for new Transportation Association of Springfield (TAGS) buses.

The legislation is good for Fairfax County. The local/regional share of the package comes from increases in several tax categories. Regional revenue generated by taxes is split—30% to counties and cities for local projects and 70% to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTVA) for regional projects. The Board of Supervisors determines which eligible projects will be funded by its 30%. The bill requires that the County realize its proportion of the 70% allocated by NVTVA over the long-term.

We're already benefitting from this legislation, particularly in the maintenance area where many local roads are being repaved and repaired. I really hope that next year, we can have some of our worst subdivision streets repaved. As chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), I'm aware of our mobility needs and that we can't build enough roads to solve our transportation problems. This bill also allocates a major part of the funding to transit and we'll see new VRE cars and improvements to the Lorton VRE station.

I also hear that funding is too heavily directed toward Tysons. However, we've done well in South County, especially with several recently funded road projects:

- Route One widening.
- Mulligan Road.
- Telegraph Road widening near Fort Belvoir.
- Telegraph Road/South Kings Highway.

Transit is key to keeping Route One moving and we're evaluating several locations for a transit center on the corridor. (To put this in perspective, January 1 through August 31 of this year counted 3,244,464 passenger trips for Connector and REX buses.) People will use transit if it's comfortable and convenient and this transit center will help to do just that. It will also further our revitalization and economic development plans for the corridor.

Mulligan Road is back on track after a lengthy bid protest and should be open to traffic in early 2014. This is the road near Hayfield Secondary School that will connect Telegraph Road to Route One near Fort Belvoir.

Our success in working with Congressman Moran and other federal elected officials to get \$180 million to widen Route 1 in front of Fort Belvoir is welcome. This will expand the existing four-lane road to six lanes, provide pedestrian and bicycle improvements, and leave space to accommodate future transit. Construction should begin in spring 2014.

The 495 Express Lanes (Hot Lanes) now make it easier and safer to drive to Tysons and on the Beltway. Connector bus service is available to Tysons from Burke; new Connector routes now run from Springfield/Saratoga to Tysons and from the Lorton VRE station to Tysons at about 55 miles an hour, even during rush hour.

One of our worst bottlenecks—the Van Dorn/Telegraph/South Kings intersection—is under construction and VDOT tells us that it should be completed in late 2014. This will help drivers using Telegraph Road to reach I-495 via South Van Dorn Street and at the bottleneck just east of the intersection before it splits to Telegraph Road and South Kings Highway.

High School Turf Field Update

I've been working toward getting turf fields for all the high schools that serve Lee District. We need more space for our youth athletics and turf fields help with this need.

Thanks to a Springfield Town Center proffer, we've already built a turf field at Lee High School and I've secured the funding for a field at Edison High School. Groundbreaking will take place there in the next few months. I'm proud to say that within the next few years, Hayfield, West Potomac, and Mount Vernon High Schools will have turf fields.



Photos from the top:

Supervisor McKay with Lee District Volunteer Champion Suzette Kern.

Reading to school children during Read Across America Week.

Signing the BridgeWalk 2013 Army/Community covenant.

Supervisor McKay with Park Authority Board member Ed Batten on the new Huntley Meadows boardwalk.

Supervisor McKay with his daughter and nephew at Chessie's Big Back Yard spray park.

The Changing Face of Lee District

Springfield Town Center: While inside work has been going on since July, the late November demolition of the outside shell proved that the Town Center was really on track. In 2009, the Board of Supervisors agreed to expedite approval of site plans and building permits. Unfortunately, the financial markets stagnated and so did the mall schedule. Now, with improved market conditions, the redevelopment is finally moving forward. The 700,000 square feet of new stores, restaurants, and movie theaters will have a totally different look and feel from the old mall. While we're waiting for the 2014 ribbon cutting, we can still shop at the anchors—Macy's, Target, and JCPenney—that will remain open during construction.

Possible FBI Relocation: The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has unanimously endorsed a Lee District site as the best location for the new FBI headquarters. Located at the GSA-owned warehouse

right off the Franconia/Springfield Parkway and adjacent to the Franconia/Springfield Metro station (where the WMATA police station is under construction), the site is transit-friendly with a direct VRE line to Washington, D.C. as well as Quantico, the site of the FBI training headquarters. It also has access to almost every major highway in the area. The GSA has received a number of proposals to its Request for Information and has not indicated yet when the review process will be completed. Moving jobs closer to where people live is critical to alleviating congestion. I hope the federal government selects our site for the FBI.

Wegmans: In other good news, groundbreaking has begun for the new Wegmans Center at the intersection of Beulah Street and Telegraph Road. There will also be recreational amenities next to the shopping center including two soccer fields, a pavilion, a playground, an open play area, and parking. The shopping center will also include restaurants and other retail.



Supervisor McKay recently viewed the progress of the Springfield Mall construction site.

Visit Lee District's Great Parks

We have great parks in Lee District—why not make this the year to visit any that are new to you?

Historic Huntley

Located near the main entrance to Huntley Meadows Park off Harrison Lane, Historic Huntley is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. Over the years, Historic Huntley was a summer retreat, grain farm, encampment for the 3rd Michigan Infantry during the Civil War, and dairy farm.

With a \$100,000 grant from the National Park Service, two Park bonds, and Park Authority funding, extensive renovation has the site now open for programs and tours.

Chessie's Big Back Yard

This Chesapeake Bay-themed park in the Family Recreation Area at Lee District Park is accessible to everyone including people with limited mobility. It features a zero-water-depth sprayground, adjacent tree

house, and nautical themed playground and is funded through a public-private partnership.

Chessie's Big Back Yard also includes a spraying osprey nest, Chessie the Sea Serpent, misting sunflowers, and a lighthouse. The beach area has soft bubblers and interactive water tables and a computerized water maze; the Nautical Cove area will open in mid-November as the next phase of Chessie's Big Backyard.

Huntley Meadows Wetland Restoration

Groundbreaking took place last spring and work on the wetlands continues at Huntley Meadows Park. A berm will allow park staff to raise wetland water levels approximately two feet, reclaiming water depth that was lost to erosion and construction from upstream development.

We expect this project to be completed by the end of the year. While you'll see some temporary trail closures, the boardwalk and observation tower will remain open. The hike-bike trail from the South Kings Highway entrance is temporarily closed.

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Participate in Local Government!

We have a long history of civic engagement in Fairfax County and that's one of the reasons why this is such a good place to live. Local government is the form of government closest to us, has the most impact on our daily lives, and it's where your voice is really heard.

Citizen participation in local government is very important to me and I encourage you to consider serving on one of the Board of Supervisor's advisory boards, authorities, and commissions. These bodies play an important role in County government. I have several openings for individuals to represent Lee District.

You'll find information about the County's boards, authorities, and commissions on the Fairfax County website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/includes/bacs/pdf/brochure.pdf> and <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/>.

If you're interested in serving on a specific commission or would like more information about the requirements, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.