



SUPERVISOR

JEFFREY C. MCKAY

Lee District Update

Summer in Lee District

Free Summer Concerts

Wednesdays from
7:30–8:30 PM
at Lee District Park

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/lee-nights.htm

Kingstowne Farmers Market

Fridays from
4:00–7:00 PM

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/FarmersMarkets/kingstownemkt.htm

11th Annual Springfield Community BridgeWalk

Tuesday, August 29
7:00—9:00 PM
at Bland Street and Amherst Avenue, Springfield and American Legion Post 176

Dear Lee District Neighbor,

How do we measure the passage of a year? The personal is easy. For many of us it's our family milestones. For me, that's watching my daughter approach kindergarten age and my son learn to sit and crawl. At the governance level, however, those milestones are more complex.

Are our roads in better shape? Do we have sidewalks? Are our schools achieving? Is our human services safety net whole? Are our parks and libraries in good shape? Is our economy stable and growing? And the intangible—do our residents feel that they are getting the services and the government that they deserve?

We're asking these questions during a time of economic uncertainty when we're seeing significant cutbacks in the areas that have long been funded by the federal and state governments. In all these areas, Fairfax County is being asked to take on an increasing financial and service load, especially in the areas of transportation and human services.

This newsletter gives an update on the projects and services that affect our district. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like more information about any of the items here. My staff and I are here to answer your questions and help solve problems. You can reach us at 703-971-6262, Leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov, and on the web at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. McKay
Lee District Supervisor

Contact Us!

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

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

Fairfax County Budget

We've struggled through four years of least-bad-case budgets so the one that the Fairfax County Board just approved for the new fiscal year is a relief. While it underlines that even Fairfax County has changed since the Great Recession, it hews to the core services of government, avoids damaging our most vulnerable residents, and recognizes that we cannot fund everything on the backs of our homeowners. If I had to pick one word to describe this budget, it would be 'fair' with the residential property tax rate remaining at \$1.07 and an additional half cent stormwater fee to meet federal and state Chesapeake Bay and clean water requirements.

I am proud that this budget restores a good part of the human services safety net cut by the federal and state budgets and that it addresses the needs of our County employees whose salaries have been frozen for the past three years. It's those employees who consistently did more with less as we cut positions and agency dollars—yet they kept our County services functioning at the high level that residents expect and deserve.

Libraries were particularly hard hit during the past four years. I heard a lot from the community about

the importance of library services so I'm pleased that we're restoring some hours--nine hours each week at the county's regional libraries, and three hours each week at the county's community libraries.

At 52 percent, the school transfer is again the lion's share of our budget so we owe it to our children and to our taxpayers to get it right. I'm encouraged by our new elected school board and strongly support its efforts to hire an auditor and increase school budget transparency.

My Lee District citizen budget advisory group again this year did an excellent job of budget analysis and recommendations and I encourage you to read their report on my website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/.



James Callum, Patch

Parks and Recreation

In October 2010, heavy rains battered an old and badly eroded Kingstowne Park dam and completely drained a pond. After extensive community input, the Park Authority approved a master plan revision for Kingstowne Park including permanent repairs to the failed dam and improved stormwater management. The revised master plan is important to the future of this 75-acre park and calls for a neighborhood preserve with a trail network, passive recreational opportunities, stormwater management, and wildlife habitat.

Just a year ago, we opened a new family recreation area, Our Special Harbor sprayground, and accessible treehouse at Lee District Park and now we're expanding this truly special place for families and children—especially those with special needs. This month, we completed and opened a new playground. Funding for this project has come from a combination of a Park bond, state grant, and private donations. More information is available from the Fairfax County Park Foundation (703) 324-8581 or www.fairfaxparkfoundation.org/.



Supervisor McKay speaking at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the groundbreaking of Chessie's Big Backyard, a special place for children with special needs.

Huntley Meadows Park is the second largest park in the County's park system and its varied habitats include wetlands, meadows, and mature forest, along with fox, deer, beaver, otter and over 200 species of birds. I'm pleased that we were able to add 75 acres to the park—a real benefit to this wildlife sanctuary and urban oasis.

When I took office in 2008, we had no artificial turf fields—today we have three with two more on the way. This includes the turf field at Lee High School that I worked with Springfield Mall to get. The Mall paid for the field through a proffer approved with its redevelopment plans.

Synthetic turf fields allow us to stretch our limited dollars by increasing field capacity

and supporting higher use than natural turf fields. They also have lower maintenance costs because they don't need mowing, fertilizing or re-seeding. I am working with other area high schools now to ensure that we continue to build these fields.



Transportation Update

In spite of severe budget constraints at the federal and state levels, we've made progress on some local roads and pedestrian improvements—especially where Fairfax County has been able to take on small projects and spot improvements using Fairfax County transportation bond funds, C&I (commercial property) taxes, and other funding sources.

■ Thanks to Congressman Moran, the Department of Defense has appropriated \$180 million to widen three miles of Route One from Telegraph Road at the southern end to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway at the northern end. This will expand the existing four-lane road to six lanes, provide pedestrian and bicycle improvements, and leave space to accommodate future transit. There will be citizen meetings to comment on design plans and construction is scheduled to begin in late 2013.

■ Mulligan Road linking the Franconia-Springfield Metro station and the Route One corridor is back on track after a lengthy bid protest. We expect to be able

to drive it in late 2013 or early 2014.

■ Telegraph Road from South Van Dorn Street to South Kings Highway will be widened with construction starting next spring and running through the end of 2013. The project will include turn lanes, a sidewalk on the east side and a trail on the west, and a new entrance and parking lot for Huntley Meadows Park. Construction should start in 2013 and be completed by the end of the year.

■ For the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, the end is in sight! While the project is scheduled for completion in 2013, there's a very good chance that we'll see most of the work done by the end of this year. This means that all of the road restrictions, lane and shoulder reductions and narrowing will be done, including all of the ramps and most of Telegraph Road. Once all the new traffic lanes on Telegraph are in place, the traffic signals at East Drive, North Kings Highway and Huntington Avenue will be optimized according to the volume of traffic.



Springfield Mall and Wegmans

When I was growing up in Lee District, Springfield Mall was a modern retail center with stores like Garfinkels and W. Bell Company. I spent a lot of time there and have fond memories. Times changed; other malls were developed and redeveloped, yet Springfield Mall's 80 acres of stores and restaurants remained fixed in time with an absentee owner who saw no reason to invest in his property. The results were predictable—B-list retailers, less than adequate security, and customers who preferred to spend their retail dollars at Tysons, Pentagon City—anyplace that wasn't Springfield Mall.

We've been waiting—since 2006 when Vornado originally put the Mall under contract; since 2009 when Fairfax County approved its development plan; through the end of 2010 when Vornado finally purchased the property outright. The great recession did its part to slow things down. The County has expedited every element of the Mall project; it's been the private sector that has not acted. Finally, it looks

like our waiting is over and construction is about to begin.

Tenants (with the exceptions of the anchors Macy's, Target, and J.C. Penny) must vacate the Mall by the end of June and extensive remodeling will begin later this summer and take 18-24 months. I've assembled a County team to expedite site plans and building permits. The renovated mall will have a completely redone interior, including a movie theater, food court, and one central entrance instead of the confusing multiple entrances of the old Mall. I'm looking forward to two Christmases from now when my children will be sitting on Santa's lap—at a revitalized Springfield Mall.

In other good news, you

can make out your shopping list for Wegmans—right around the corner from Springfield Mall—at the intersection of Beulah Street and Telegraph Road. Groundbreaking took place earlier this spring and the store is scheduled to open in early 2014.



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Alexandria, VA 22310

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LEE DISTRICT NIGHTS 2012 CONCERTS

Lee District Park Amphitheater

6601 Telegraph Road
Franconia, VA 22310

June • July • August

Wednesday Evenings at 7:30 PM

Admission – FREE



July

- 4 No Performance
- 11 The NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra (*Pop*)
- 18 Ryan Montbleau Band (*R&B/Pop*)
- 25 The U.S. Army Band Downrange (*Rock*)

August

- 1 Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers
- 8 The Nighthawks (*Blues*)
- 15 The U.S. Navy Band Commodores (*Jazz*)
- 22 David Gerald Band (*Blues/R&B*)
- 29 Sock Monkeys (*Rock*)

Concerts cancelled for rain. If bad weather threatens, call 703-324-SHOW (7469) after 6:00 PM. We invite you to enjoy these concerts with your family and friends.