



The Springfield District Report

Elaine McConnell
Springfield District
Supervisor



April, 2002
Volume XII

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Message from Elaine McConnell

The year 2002 started out with great challenges for your Supervisor. The Virginia General Assembly came home from Richmond with very little in their back packs for Northern Virginia. My request to put to referendum the one cent increase in our sales tax for ten years to pay for our children's schools and many of the roads we need for our citizens (that probably will not be built for the next ten years because there is no funding plan) failed to pass. This failure was mainly the result of the Speaker of the House' attitude toward our people in Northern Virginia and the belief of many members of the General Assembly (including several members from Northern Virginia) that education is not a state responsibility. I find this to be incredible given the Commonwealth is 47th on the list of state funding of schools.

The next challenge I faced was the reaction to the reassessment of residential properties in our county. Many constituents received bills showing an increase of 11 to 25% in their assessments, the second year in a row for double-digit tax increases and they all let our office know about it! In a county where 57% of the tax revenue comes from residential real estate taxes, it is very clear we need another source of income to fund the running of government. Of course we appreciate the 22% businesses and commercial properties contribute to the revenue stream. Unfortunately this year the number dropped from 25% to the aforementioned 22% leaving us with a potential loss of 42 million dollars. Without the input of our good businesses and industry, our citizens would be facing an even larger increase in their residential taxes. This loss of 3% was another blow to our economy.

Next came the school budget with its additional needs of \$65 million

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dollars above last year's budget. The enrollment keeps growing (approximately 4,000 students per year) and the diversity of our population demands much more of our schools than 20 years ago. But our school board will have to assess closely those programs that are not effective and eliminate them. They cannot sacrifice quality for quantity. Our children need a good education, but at a price our citizens can afford.

Finally, the county side of the budget where our needs to provide services for our people grows faster than our ability to pay for those services.

Our citizens expect the best in fire and police performance, in providing libraries and parks, in mental health facilities and

in human services where the mentally handicapped, the elderly and those less advantaged need assistance. Our county executive has reduced spending by 10% across the board for all county agencies with the exception of public safety and many of these departments have been cut to the bone.

What do we do now? Our problems are not going to go away. Next year and the year after, we are going to be facing the same issues we are facing today. The reality is federal and state funding will continue to diminish. The demand for mandates from each of these sources will continue without the financial assistance to go with the demands. We will lose over \$134 million dollars from the Commonwealth and the federal government this year! Put this together with the fact we get only 19 cents back on every dollar we send to Richmond and we begin to see the problem, but what is the answer?

People talk about the poor, rural counties of this state and how we have an obligation to help fund their needs. I, like most of you, believe we should help give their children the same benefits of a quality education as our own and the services they need. That being said, I ask in return, "What are they doing to help themselves?"

For example, just try opening a new business in some of these rural counties. You will probably

receive the same answer many of us have, "we don't want outsiders coming in here, we don't want development coming in here, we don't want roads widened because it brings traffic in here, we want to stay just like we are!"

And, take a look at the welfare roles, the workman's compensation numbers, the unemployment rate, and the length of employment in these counties. It might be a shock to some people.

I think it is time for the Governor to hold all the counties and cities in this state accountable. Establish a commission immediately that looks at each one and checks the following: how many new businesses and industries have been brought into their areas yearly, how many jobs

have been created and what has been done to bring in new revenue to help take them off the state's assistance programs. If the answer is none, give them a warning and the support to help bring in industry. If they refuse, cut back their money until they comply. This commission should see the inequities of the system and evaluate it. If you agree, [write our governor](#) and tell him so.

We are tired of being laughed at and called "those rich people in Northern Virginia who don't need anything" (including the right to tax ourselves to alleviate our transportation problems or to build schools our children need in order to get 16,000 of them out of trailers).

Our people have worked long and hard to get where they are. Many of them are retiring and want to stay here. It is not fair that they have the burden of supporting the rest of the Commonwealth and that we are taxing them out of our county. The old saying "charity begins at home" is a good one. While our General Assembly members may think we are willing to do our share, we must make it clear to them that taking 81 cents for the rest of the Commonwealth out of our \$1.00 is not a SHARE. It's a SHAME!

Elaine McConnell
Supervisor
Springfield District

“ . . . it is time for the Governor to hold all the counties and cities in this state accountable.”

Boards, Authorities and Commissions News

Recently I have been able to fill three vacancies for the [Fairfax County Boards, Authorities and Commissions](#) (BACs). I would like to take this opportunity to thank our new Springfield District Appointees and to introduce them to you. Please note there are several vacancies for the BACs noted below.

Kenneth Meagher has been appointed to the **Airport Advisory Committee**. This committee's purpose is to review and advise on land use, transportation planning and environmental problems (over-flight noise) in relation to Dulles and National Airports. Kenneth has a degree in Business Management and has a substantial background in the communications field.

Mary Campbell has been appointed to the **Child Care Advisory Board**. The purpose of this committee is to advise the Board of Supervisors and the Office for Children on programs and policies related to child-care. Mary has a Masters in Home Economics and has been teaching for Prince William County Schools for 30 years.

Gene Voegtlin has been appointed to the **Criminal Justice Advisory Committee**. This committee's purpose is to analyze criminal justice problems, prepare and submit plans, implement selected projects and furnish advice and recommendations to the County Executive and the Board of Supervisors. Gene has a B.A. in Political Science, M.A. in Legislative Affairs, and a Law Degree. Gene is currently legislative counsel for International Association of Chiefs of Police.

VACANCIES

The **Community Improvement Committee** advises the Board of Supervisors on matters relating to the [Community Improvement Program](#); reviews and comments on community plans and recommends neighborhoods for participation in the program; and recommends appropriate funding for each community improvement project.

The **Commission on Aging** advises the Board of Supervisors on policy in long-term care and aging; identifies unmet needs and gaps in service, especially for the frail elderly; recommends services or strategies to respond to unmet needs; and informs the Board of Supervisors of the characteristics of the older population and its impact on County resources.

The **Environmental Quality Advisory Council** (EQAC) advises the Board of Supervisors on environmental issues such as water quality, air quality, noise, hazardous materials, solid waste, stream valley protection, deer management, light pollution, visual pollution, and the use and preservation of ecological resources. EQAC prepares an [Annual Report on the Environment](#) that summarizes environmental conditions, trends, programs, legislation, and issues in Fairfax County.

The **Fairfax Area Disability Service Board** represents persons with physical and sensory disabilities in Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.

The **Tree Commission** advises the Board of Supervisors on tree preservation requirements, assists the Urban Forestry Branch in developing technical specifications and provides leadership in developing an understanding of the objectives and methods of tree conservation.

The **Commission on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation** coordinates community resources to promote awareness of organ and tissue donation and transplantation; educates the community about the donation process; and increases the number of County organ and tissue donors.

Economic Advisory Commission News

In February, Dr. Gerald L. Gordon, President, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, presented an overview of where Fairfax County has been, where it is now, and where it is going in the future.

Dr. Gordon noted that in the 1970s a blue ribbon committee on growth and development laid out a plan to bring business to the county. The panel anticipated the county would grow from its then population of 413,000 to 800,000 in the 1990s. The panel ended up being remarkably close in its estimate given the county had a population of 819,000 in the 1990 census. Dr. Gordon noted the growth of business in the county had allowed the tax assessment to be lowered from \$1.74 per \$100.00 to the current \$1.23 per \$100.00. In addition, he noted that for every \$1.00 in taxes the average citizen pays he receives \$1.55 in services. Conversely, for every \$1.00 in taxes the average business pays, it receives \$.35 in services. This point is very important when the county considers the mix between residential and commercial as we move forward.

Dr. Gordon pointed out the county has grown much more diverse ethnically and also from a business perspective. The county has strengths in federal contracting, telecommunications, computers, aviation and biotechnology. At a macro level, the blue ribbon committee anticipated accurately the growth in technology. Fairfax County can look forward to a population of 1.2 million in 2020, which means an additional 10 to 12 thousand new residents per year. All of these residents will demand increased quantity and quality of services.

He stated that even 15 years ago the Economic Development Authority noted a positive experience had a tremendous impact on site selection by companies. From this observation came the establishment of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. In addition, the Economic Development Authority established offices in Frankfurt, London and Tokyo. Each of these efforts paid dividends given Fairfax County has generated 42% of the job growth in the Commonwealth over the past five years and will generate 50% of the job growth in the Common-

wealth over the next five years. The Economic Development Authority staff also learned it was most cost effective to bring business leaders to the county, rather than individual staff members visiting individual companies. A notable example of this was the World Conference on technology, a conference that drew companies from 93 countries from around the world. Fourteen companies located in Fairfax County as a direct result of the conference. The Economic Development Commission also has worked to establish an Emerging Business Forum, first held in 2001. It is noteworthy that 7 of the top 100 black owned businesses and 10 of the top 50 Hispanic owned businesses in the United States are located in Fairfax County.

Dr. Gordon stated another issue in the past was the lack of venture capital and the inability to gain and retain information technology expertise. There are now 34 venture capitalists in the county and they have consummated \$1.4 billion in deals, with \$865 million of these having been worked in conjunction with the Economic Development Authority. Fairfax County ranks behind only the Silicon Valley and the Boston area in the venture capital area.

The Economic Advisory Commission, chaired by Supervisor McConnell, will continue to promote smart economic growth in Fairfax County and benefits greatly from the insights provided by speakers such as Dr. Gordon.

For further information on the Economic Development Authority, check out their [website](#) or call (703) 790-0600.

DID YOU KNOW...

Nearly 1,800 jobs -- most in information technology fields -- were or will be added to the Fairfax County economy by 23 companies that worked with the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority in January and February.

Source: FCEDA

Other News

Board of Supervisors Designates 2002 “Occoquan Watershed Year”

At its March 18th meeting, the Board of Supervisors designated 2002 “Occoquan Watershed Year” in celebration of the 20 year anniversary of the downzoning decision.

Many of our citizens are not acquainted with the RC (Rural Conservation) zoning district that covers approximately 41,000 acres in Fairfax County, mostly in the Springfield District.

The primary purpose of this zoning action was to protect the Occoquan River and its Watershed that supplies more than a million residents with water. You will be happy to know that the County’s [Stream Protection Strategy Baseline Study](#) found the county’s healthiest streams in the Occoquan Watershed and as of March 14, 2002 the Occoquan Reservoir was 88 percent full, despite record low rainfall.

In my 19 years in office, we have worked very hard to protect this pristine area from any changes in zoning that would serve to undercut the Board’s 1982 zoning action. The courts were very specific about the use of the land in the Occoquan area in the settlement of the cases after the downzoning. The court laid down very strict rules on development while protecting the development rights of those owners who were deemed to have grandfathered rights. Uses in the RC district are still restricted to those listed in our [Zoning Ordinance](#) and must meet very specific requirements, such as one house to every five acres. There are still many uses that are allowed in the RC district by special permit or special exception such as churches, schools, and campgrounds.

Cell Phone Demand Increases Need for Cell Towers

A number of people have asked about how and why cell towers are allowed to come into our communities. Under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, passed under former President Clinton, cell towers were declared a public utility use because they provide the means by which the community can have cellular communication. The [Federal Communications Commission](#) authorizes the number of frequencies that can be utilized in an area.

Since the need for cell phones is overwhelming in our high tech county, the need for towers has also been a major issue. The 12 member Planning Commission is sometimes split by one community that is opposed to the towers, versus the realization for the need to have them constructed, especially in areas where there is poor service or “black spots,” and sometimes for public safety use.

Remember, our Planning Commissioner, Peter Murphy, is only one vote on a board of 12. If he makes a motion to approve or deny an application, there are 11 other members of the Planning Commission who may or may not agree. The approval process involving these telecommunications facilities is controlled by state law and the Board of Supervisors is only involved in that process if an appeal is filed with regard to a decision of the Planning Commission on one of these facilities.

We have been very fortunate in the Springfield District to find locations on existing towers, power lines, or on public or other buildings. Still the demand for cell phones grows each day and there is not an easy answer to this ever- growing dependency on cellular phones.

Va. Code § 15.2-2232

requires the Planning Commission to approve each request for cell towers. The Planning Commission is mandated to judge each application in terms of whether it is in substantial conformance with the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan regarding three criteria:

- character (use or type of facility)
- extent (how it affects the community)
- location



Transportation

Route 123 Widening

One of our top priorities in our District is to see Rt. 123 completed to the bridge over the Occoquan. We have worked very closely with Virginia Department Of Transportation (VDOT) on this road and have assisted them in every way we can. I attended the meeting in which VDOT awarded the contract to A&W Contracting Co. to widen Rt. 123 to four lanes from Burke Lake Road to just south of Lee Chapel Road. Heavy construction activity will begin this Spring with a project completion date of 18 to 24 months. We are working with VDOT to get the next section started!

Phase two of the Rt. 123 project is scheduled to go to advertisement during April 2002. This phase covers improvements to Rt. 123 from Lee Chapel Road to Davis Drive. As of this time, no additional information is available concerning project completion schedules for phase two. For up-to-date information concerning this project, consult VDOT's [website](#).

Fairfax County Parkway/Fair Lakes Parkway Improvement Project

The Virginia Department of Transportation will be holding a citizen information meeting on the Fairfax County/Fair Lakes Parkway improvement project.

**June 4, 2002
Chantilly High School
4201 Stringfellow Road**

The meeting will be from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. with a Q & A session starting at 6:00 p.m.

CONTACT US

The *Springfield District Report* is distributed electronically in January, April, July, and October.

If you are interested in receiving your free copy of the *Springfield District Report*, please send us an [e-mail](#). In the subject line of the e-mail, please type "subscribe." In the body of the e-mail, please include your name, address, and phone number (optional).

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Attention Homeowner and Civic Associations!

In order to better serve you, our office is in the process of collecting updated information for homeowners and civic associations.

Please [e-mail](#) or call us with any changes in association name, address, phone number and e-mail address of the current contact. For homeowner associations served by a management firm, please provide their name, the contact person and phone number as well.

Send information to Supervisor McConnell's Administrative Aide, Nancy McDonnell by [e-mail](#) or call her at (703) 324-2500. Thank-You!

News from Around the District

Springfield District Community Leaders Respond to Survey

Supervisor McConnell surveyed Springfield District community leaders in January of this year and received an overwhelming response. The survey, composed of ten questions on various issues, is located on the [Springfield District Website](#). Supervisor McConnell will use the results of this survey for strategic planning purposes when addressing Board matters.

Education, public safety, roads, and tax rates are the four issues of greatest importance among the survey respondents. Concerns about public safety are mainly concerns about traffic, either congestion or traffic control. Some 43% of respondents identified these issues as the ones most deserving public resources. Crime control came in next at 26% while emergency response time garnered 16% of the vote.

There is also support for a penny tax for roads and schools. Only 18% of respondents were unwilling to pay an additional half-cent for either better roads or better schools. Nearly 60% were willing to target both schools and roads, with 12% opting for roads only and 11% for schools only. More than three-quarters (78%) of respondents would require increased taxes for roads to be spent exclusively within Fairfax County, rather than within the Northern Virginia region.

A large number of respondents support an increase in sales taxes rather than other taxes, if voters agreed to a tax increase, which 82% appeared willing to do. Over two-thirds (67%) of respondents would increase sales taxes, as compared with 19% for increased State income taxes, 10% for increased personal property taxes (car tax) and 4% for increased real estate property taxes.

Although 60% of respondents identified an economic problem as deserving greater attention, no one item received more than a fifth of the votes. Forty percent of respondents believe no economic problems deserve attention. The need to attract new business received 19% of the vote. The remainder of the items received significantly few votes: loss of local business (14%); loss of major employers (11%); lack of job opportunities (8%); and, reduction of property values (8%).

Human Services ranked very low on the list of county issues. About a third (30%) of respondents did not believe major human services deserved greater attention. Among the listed choices, services of the elderly received the most votes (27%), followed by affordable housing (24%), mental health services (13%) and drug rehabilitation (6%).

South County Area Plan Review (APR) Task Force Meets This Month

The Area Plan Review (APR) process is designed to allow citizens to discuss nominations to change the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor McConnell appoints citizens of the Springfield District to sit on a Task Force, and the members meet to vote on recommendations to the Planning Commission. The Task Force looks at the land use of nominated sites and also considers transportation access. Nominations to change the Comprehensive Plan in the South County cycle were accepted December 3, 2001 through February 1, 2002.

Appointees were selected in early March, and will begin meeting in April. The public can review the nominations and staff reports, attend Task Force meetings, and speak before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors at public hearings.

To familiarize yourself further with the process, you may access the Department of Planning and Zoning [web page](#). The web page also provides you with a link to the "Citizen's Guide to the 2002 South County Cycle Area Plan Review."

Land Use

Community Meetings and Public Hearings

The following information is an update on pending land use applications. Applicants to be heard before the Springfield-Fairfax Center Area Land Use Committee are noted and scheduled at the times indicated. Subsequent Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors (BOS) hearing dates are also provided, if available.

DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CONTACT SUPERVISOR MCCONNELL'S OFFICE AT (703) 324-2500 TO CONFIRM.

APPLICATION	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LAND USE CMTE. HEARING	PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING	BOS HEARING
Sprint PCS 2232-S00-28	Construct telecommunications facility, consisting of a 125-foot monopole, panel antennas, and equipment cabinets.	11334 Lee Highway	N/A	Deferred	N/A
Centex Homes RZ 2001-SP-041, 042, 043	Rezone 80.13155 ac from R-1, R-2 and WS (part) Districts to the PDH-12 and WS (part) Districts; consolidate existing parcels to permit construction of 1074 residential units.	North of Lee Hwy. (Rt. 29), south of Post Forest Dr., and east of West Ox Rd. (Rt. 608)	N/A	5/15	5/20
Gesher Jewish Day School SE 2001-S-028	Construct a private school of general education for approximately 540 students, K-8.	4700 Shirley Gate Rd.	N/A	Deferred	Deferred
Pender Veterinary Clinic SE 02-S-001	Expand office space and build underground parking.	4001 Legato Rd.	5/13	5/29	N/A
McDonald's Corp. SE 01-S-055	Construct a drive-thru restaurant.	West Ox Rd. between I-66 and Rt. 29	5/13	5/29	N/A
Fairfax Corner PCA 87-S-039-05 FDPA 87-S-039-09	Permit reallocation of residential/commercial uses to allow additional residential use.	North side of Monument Dr. at its intersection with the Government Center Pkwy. and south of Random Hills Rd.	5/13	5/30	N/A
Equity Homes RZ/FDP 2002-SP-004	Rezone from R-1 to PDH-2 to construct single-family detached development.	North side of Rt. 29, west of Willowmeade Dr.	6/10	6/27	N/A
Merrifield Garden Center SEA 82-S-087-3	Increase land area and modify conditions.	12039 Lee Hwy.	6/10	6/27	N/A
Zia U. Hassan RZ/FDP 2002-SP-006	Rezone from R-a to PDH-2 to construct single-family detached development.	Moore Rd., east of Willow Valley Rd.	6/10	7/10	N/A



Fairfax County Budget FY 2003

The budget proposed by the county executive totals \$2.46 billion, of which 51.6% or approximately \$1.27 billion is transferred to the schools (note: this figure includes a transfer of \$110 million for debt service). This represents a 7.07% increase for the schools which is one of only two programs in Fairfax County (the other being public safety) to receive an increase for the next fiscal year. The 7.07% increase is driven by an expected increase in enrollment of 4,000 students and a step increase for Fairfax County teachers.

Real estate assessments increased while sales tax receipts decreased

Real estate assessments increased across the county by 16.27%. This increase is a reflection of the continuing strength in the local housing market. It should be noted this phenomenon is not limited to Fairfax County, given the average increase in assessments in Northern Virginia totaled 18.2%. Unfortunately, this was the only aspect of the county revenue that increased during the year. Because of the recession beginning in March 2001 and the effects of the 11th of September 2001 revenues derived from sales tax receipts declined ten of the last eleven months (6.5%), recordation fees declined 23%, county investment revenue decreased because of the eleven rate cuts by the Federal Reserve and revenue from the state and federal governments decreased 10%.

County Executive directs agencies to cut expenditures by 5%*

Based on the above set of circumstances, on the 14th of November 2001 the county executive directed all county agencies to reduce expenditures by 5% to eliminate an expected \$13.0 million shortfall in revenue. This initiative resulted in savings totaling over \$17.0 million. Unfortunately, revenues have not recovered and the county faces an additional shortfall of \$6.4 million as we near the end of the third quarter. Given this set of circumstances the county executive has recommended a decrease in the Capital Improvement Program and in Information Technology initiatives to cover this shortfall.

Based on the above budget, it might be instructive to discuss where we are and the issues we face as a

county in the coming year. First, increasing pressure is being placed on the county and its resources because of an expected \$44 million decrease in state aid for education. Specifically, the composite index used to determine locality aid changed, and as a result of this change Fairfax County will receive less than it has in the past. It should also be noted that if the state fully funded the SOL Fairfax County would gain \$88 million more dollars than it currently receives. In addition, the county is also supposed to receive approximately \$50 million in impact aid from the federal government based on the number of children of military personnel educated in the county. Unfortunately, the federal government uses a wealth factor to determine this aid and, as a result, Fairfax County will receive only \$4.0 million.

Second, real estate tax revenues accounted for 57.2% of the revenues received by the county. This is up from 50% just three short years ago. In addition, we usually expect the commercial sector of the county to account for 25% of the tax revenue, this year we are looking at approximately 21.9%. What does this mean for the individual home owner in the county as we move forward? First, we should be concerned by the percentage increase in tax revenue coming from the residential sector. This is the reason there should always be a healthy mix between commercial and residential development. For example, for every \$1.00 in taxes the average homeowner pays he or she receives \$1.50 in county services. On the other hand, for every \$1.00 a commercial entity pays in taxes that company receives approximately \$.35 in county services. Smart growth is an item that will have greater and greater consequences as the county matures and land for development becomes ever scarcer.

True tax reform needed at state level

Third, in a more strategic sense we should be concerned about the division of revenues at the state level. For example, Fairfax County currently provides 25% of the total tax revenue of the state and yet it receives 19 cents on every dollar sent to Richmond. This is a much more fundamental problem and will have to be addressed by true tax reform at the state level. This will require the leadership of the governor and the state legislature regardless of political affiliation.

The next year will be a challenging one for all of us in Fairfax County as we balance the needs of Fairfax County Citizens and the financial situation we face.

* Since the writing of this article, the County Executive, during the April budget hearings, has proposed an additional 5% across-the-board reduction in expenditures.

Calendar of Events

The following list of activities is a sample of events taking place in the Springfield District from April through June, 2002. This is not a comprehensive list—it is just a taste of the many happenings in and around the Springfield District. If you are sponsoring an event and would like to see it listed in our community calendar, please call Supervisor McConnell's Administrative Aide, Marlae Schnare, at (703) 324-2500 or send her an [e-mail](#). Events for the July 2002 Springfield District Report should be submitted no later than June 28, 2002.

Springfield District Libraries

Pohick Library - 6450 Sydenstricker Rd. - To find out what events are taking place at your local library, access the library [calendar of events](#).



iBistro— Fairfax County Public Library's new computerized catalog system, will be available in late May or early June. Tech-savvy patrons will not only be able to find out whether or not a book is available, but will be able to see pictures of book jackets, read reviews, and peruse best-seller lists and read author biographies, à la [Amazon.com](#). For more information on the new system and the host of new features and services, contact Lois Kirkpatrick, (703) 324-8319.

April 23 at 7:00 p.m. - Bob Woodward, Pulitzer-prize winning co-author of *All the President's Men*, will lead a discussion of the presidency of Richard Nixon. Where: Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium. Free and open to the public!

May 13 at 7:00 p.m. - Sam Donaldson, a 34-year ABC News veteran and White House correspondent, will discuss the Reagan presidency. Where: Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium. Free and open to the public!

Celebrate Fairfax! - June 7-9 at the Fairfax County Government Center

The Fairfax Fair is a County wide community event which showcases the citizens, businesses and government which make Fairfax County an exciting and unique place to live and work.

Board of Supervisors Meeting Dates (April through June, 2002)

April 8 (April 8-10 Budget Hearings), 22 (Budget Mark-Up Session), 29

May 6, 20

June 3, 17

The [Weekly Agenda](#) contains information on the agenda of the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals, official actions of the Board of Supervisors and important upcoming events.

Fairfax County Parks

[Burke Lake Park](#) offers fantastic fun with a marina, train, carousel, campgrounds and even an ice cream parlor. Recently named as the "Best Park" in the county, Burke Lake won't let you down! The fun begins April 6! To find out what's happening at your other local parks, access the Fairfax County Park [web page](#).

The Net (Springfield District Teen Center)

Highlights for April and May include a field trip to the Baltimore Aquarium, a movie marathon, and scooter races. For more information call Brandy Mullen at (703) 324-5713 or access the [web page](#).

Public Hearings - See [page 7](#) for more details.