



# The Springfield District Report

*Elaine McConnell  
Springfield District  
Supervisor*



Fall, 2002  
Volume XII

## **Supervisor McConnell Receives Public Service Award**

[Leadership Fairfax Incorporated](#) has selected Supervisor Elaine McConnell for the 2002 Northern Virginia Leadership Public Service Award. The Supervisor is being recognized for her vision, innovation, courage and

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## **Your Vote Counts**

Voters go to the polls November 5, 2002 [See Page 4](#)

## **Fairfax County Community Association Manual Now Available**

Comprehensive guide for property owners associations distributed. [See Page 4](#)

## **Profile: Mike Shannon, Fairfax Countywide Trails Committee**

Improving trails for all users . . .  
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## **MORE NEWS**

### **Transportation Update**

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### **From Our Readers**

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## **To Tax or Not to Tax, That is the Question?**

Never have I seen such a political frenzy over a half-cent sales tax increase, an increase amounting to 25 cents per day per family of four. This equates to less than two tickets to see the Redskins play or a meal for a family at one of our local restaurants. It is in fact far less than a pack of cigarettes per day and less than two tickets to the Kennedy Center. All this in a County where the median household income is almost \$95,000 per year!

I do not apologize for bringing the tax referendum before the Board of Supervisors last year, prompted by my frustration in seeing my constituents and the people in this County drowning in traffic jams. I thought then and I continue to think voters of Fairfax County should have a choice regarding future improvements that will directly impact where they live, work and play.

We can of course always beat up on the State of Virginia for its failure to adequately fund our roads over the past 25 years—when we needed them the most. I have done that over my 19 years in office because I saw the fallacy in the Dillon Rule. Simply put, it did not give us the power to control tying public facilities, i.e., roads and schools, to the building boom occurring around us in Northern Virginia. I saw how the General Assembly, overwhelmingly made up of the rural counties, laughed, as they controlled us until the last three years, refusing to give back to us our own money to improve our lot.

“How can we reasonably expect to operate a County with all our needs when we receive 19 cents back on each dollar we send to Richmond?” I have asked this question many times and have never received a satisfactory answer. “We are the breadbasket of Virginia, contributing from our County 30% of the State’s personal income tax and getting little back to help us meet the needs of the growing population who live, work and provide the wonderful income the State so seems to enjoy.”

All that being said, I have come to realize we, as the victims of these ineq-

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unities, must resolve the problems we face. The State, for all practical purposes, is broke, approaching two billion dollars in the red and the number is still climbing. You cannot blame one party or one administration for all that has gone on in the past—you have to deal with reality.

Do not be deceived. There will be those who say that if we raise the sales tax in Northern Virginia the General Assembly will reduce tax revenues to us in a like amount. Nothing could be further from the truth. The law specifically states as follows:

“That any moneys distributed to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority from a one half of one per cent sales and use tax.... shall not be used to calculate or reduce the share of federal, state or local revenues or funds otherwise available to the localities in the counties and cities...nor shall they be used to calculate or reduce any allocation of revenues or funds made pursuant to Title 33.1 of the Code of Virginia.”

Like Stan Laurel said to Oliver Hardy in the old time movies—“What do we do now, Ollie?” Well, from my perspective, we have one of two options. We can blame everyone around us, sit still, do nothing and stew in our own juices. Or, we can vote to increase our sales tax by a half cent to use for our transportation needs. We could be 25 cents per family poorer per day or we could be \$2.8 billion dollars richer in transportation necessities we desperately need to make our lives more pleasant in the years ahead. I have asked that our people have a choice, not to have some politician raise taxes without representation, but to let the people decide—the purest form of democracy.

I know the referendum before us is not the one I originally proposed. The one I advocated for was a combination of a half-cent for schools, a half-cent for transportation and it had a ten-year sunset clause. It was a pay-as-you-go plan, saving over two billion dollars of taxpayer money because of that feature alone. And, it had dozens of local road improvements relevant to our peoples’ lives every day.

Now we must turn to bonds to fund our school

system’s capital improvements plan of over \$1.8 billion dollars to build and renovate the schools our children need. This will cost all of us \$274 million dollars in interest over the next ten years, a cost that would have allowed us to give our citizens a break by reducing real estate taxes! The activists who were then and are now fighting the referendum never seem to mention that to our people. Nor do they mention the revenue will be gained from visitors and those in the County that do not pay real estate taxes.

True, this is not the original plan for the referendum. The school portion is gone and the list of transportation projects has changed, but, for the first time, it gives our people some hope for \$2.8 billion dollars in road and rail improvements. It allows us a choice, that if defeated, will not come again and the “good old boys” in the General Assembly will be able to say with good conscience “see, we gave them the chance to improve their situation. They didn’t take it. Too bad! They need not come begging for that right again!”

I support the referendum because I know we will not get the money we need to make our lives easier over the next ten years. That is a fiscal reality. I know the County will not have the money to relieve our real estate taxes next year because we have no other source of income. However, I also know I tried to come up with an initiative to help our schools, help our transportation situation and to help relieve our real estate taxes. It is a shame politics had to cloud the picture and convolute the intent of someone who tried to think “outside the box.” Ask the opposition what their solutions are for the problems we face. See how much money they bring home for us next Spring when the General Assembly meets.

You have the facts. You know the consequences either way. I trust your judgment to do what you know is right.



## Boards, Authorities and Commissions News

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### Mike Shannon: Trail Advocate

Mike Shannon is currently a member of the Fairfax Countywide Trails Committee representing the Springfield Magisterial District. Improving trail connectivity is one his priorities as well as improving trail use opportunities for all trail users. The Trails Committee, working with the Fairfax County's Planning Office, recently completed a mapping of existing County trails. Copies of the maps (south and north county) can be obtained by calling the County Maps and Publication Center office at (703) 324-2974. A set of maps cost \$3.14 (\$3 for the maps and \$.14 for the tax), a South County map is available for \$1.50 plus tax.

Mike has served as Chairman and member of the Springfield District Area Plans Review Task Force and as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee which developed a Lorton Correctional Facility land use plan for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Mike served as president of the Board of Trustees of the South Run Homeowners Association as well as Chairman of its Land Use Committee. He has served the Springfield District Council, an umbrella group of homeowner associations, in various capacities including Chairman for two years. He is currently a board member at-large of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition (OWC). He was founding officer of Citizens for Sensible County Planning, a predecessor organization to the OWC established in 1989 to deal with a planned Occoquan River road crossing. Previously, he served as President of the Burke Nativity Catholic Church's parish council.

In 1997, Mike was the Springfield District's Lord Fairfax honoree. Mike and his wife Rosemarie have lived in the Springfield District since 1970. They have three adult children and one grandchild. Mike, a native of Minnesota, has a BS degree from the University of Minnesota and MS degree from Virginia Tech. He is an employee of the US Environmental Protection Agency.

### Volunteer Opportunities Available!

Supervisor Elaine McConnell is seeking to fill the following two vacancies for the Fairfax County Boards, Authorities and Commissions.

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 **Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Citizen Advisory Council** advises and assists the judges of the Fairfax County Juvenile Court and its Court Services Director on matters relating to the provision of services and care for children under the jurisdiction of the Court.

For further information on these committees or if you are willing to serve as the Springfield District representative, e-mail [Dianne Peikin](mailto:Dianne.Peikin@fairfaxva.gov) or call her at (703) 451-8873. Additional information on the various Boards, Authorities and Commissions can be found on the [Fairfax County website](http://www.fairfaxva.gov).

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inspiration. Elaine has been a pioneer in the field of learning disabilities through her Accotink Academy, had the vision to found the [Virginia Railway Express](http://www.virginia-railway-express.com), and was the first publicly elected official to advocate a tax referendum for education and transportation. The Supervisor is an inspiration to her staff and her constituents because of her energy and drive. Elaine will be honored on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2002 at the Leadership Fairfax Awards Gala at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, Virginia.

## News You Can Use



### Your Vote Counts

On Election Day, November 5, 2002, voters will elect a U.S. Senator, U.S. Representatives, and a State Senator in the 39th District. In addition, [two state constitutional amendments](#), [two statewide bond issues](#), [a regional sales and use tax referenda](#), and two Fairfax County bond issues are on the ballot. See the [Fairfax County Electoral Board and General Registrar site](#) for further information.

On November 5, 2002 the polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. To find out where you can vote, go to [Fairfax County Electoral Board and General Registrar site](#). Please remember that voters are now required to show identification (ID) BEFORE casting their ballots. Accepted are Virginia Voter Identification Card, employer issued photo ID, Military ID, Federal State or local government issued ID, Virginia Driver's License, or a Social Security Card. Any voter without appropriate ID may still vote by signing an Affirmation of Identity under oath.

In-person absentee voting began September 23, 2002 in the General Registrar's Office and will be available at six satellite locations beginning October 16 and continuing through November 2, Monday thru Friday 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Springfield District satellite location is at the West Springfield Governmental Center (Temporary Location), 8438 Bauer Drive, Springfield. To locate the address of the other satellite voting locations, please call (703) 222-0776.

Absentee ballots are available to qualified voters unable to vote at their polling place on election day and curbside voting is available for the elderly. You have until close of business October 31, 2002 to return your Application for Absentee Ballot by mail or fax and until November 2, 2002 to vote in person at the Registrar's office. To get an application, call (703) 222-0776; fax (703) 324-2205; e-mail [Mary Lutz](#) or write to General Registrar, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035-0081.

### Fairfax County Community Association Manual Now Available

The latest edition of the "Fairfax County Community Association Manual" has been published and mailed to each association on the County's Community Association mailing list.

The manual was written and published by the County's Consumer Protection Division as a comprehensive guide for community association officers, directors and members, and provides information regarding legal, financial, administrative, management, and many other topics pertinent to the operation and self-governance of associations. It is designed and intended to assist association directors and leaders in understanding their authorities and performing their duties. Answers to almost all relevant questions concerning condominium and property owners associations can be found in the text or through the use of references in the Technical Assistance Resources list and/or the extensive bibliography in the Appendix section. This publication has been completely updated to include extensive Internet addresses and hyperlinks to the referenced resources, agencies, businesses and codes as well as all 2002 amendments of the Virginia Condominium Act and Property Owners Association Act.

Additional softcover copies of the Manual can be purchased for \$15 each at the County's Maps and Publications Office, Suite 157 in the County Government Center. The Manual will also be available [online](#) under the Consumer Protection banner in the near future. The County's Community Association Liaison, Cal Wagner, who authored the manual, is available to address your association and to answer your questions regarding community association matters and governance. Mr. Wagner can be contacted at (703) 222-8435 or through [e-mail](#).

## More News You Can Use

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### Cox Communications Upgrades To Digital In Springfield District

Cox Communications has started Phase 4 of the Digital Upgrade—the phase that includes the Springfield District. Depending on where you live, the upgrade may have already started or will begin after the new year. Visit Cox's [website](#) for more details.

Cox claims the upgraded system will offer subscribers new channels, improved picture quality and enhanced system reliability. Service disruptions may occur when crews replacing underground cable require access to utility easements or public right-of-ways located adjacent to your property.

Cox is currently seeking a special exception amendment to establish their sixth hub site (switching station) in Fairfax County. The 1.76-acre site is located off of Burke Lake Road in Burke Village and is currently vacant. This hub will house fiber electronic equipment and will be a one-story structure with a façade similar to that of the Burke Village Shopping Center. According to Cox, this and the other five hubs are necessary for the rebuild of the existing cable system.

#### Cox Cable/Internet Service Problems or Questions?

Cox Outage Information/Refresh Help Line  
378-4357

Cox Customer Service and Repairs  
378-8422

Fairfax County Department of Consumer Services  
324-5900

File a formal complaint online  
[Consumer Services Website](#)

### The Fairfax County Police Department's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

has held monthly meetings for the past 23 years. The purpose of these meetings is to provide the opportunity for the captains of each police station to coordinate with the citizens representing their respective Neighborhood Watch organizations.

Meetings of the CAC are held on the third Tuesday of every month. These meetings are open to the public, and feature a guest speaker, an update from the Station Commander, and an open forum for questions and answers.

If your community is interested in learning how to start a neighborhood watch, please contact your respective station Crime Prevention Officer.

#### Fair Oaks

Captain Dennis Wilson  
*Station Commander*

Officer Liz Barrington  
*Crime Prevention Officer*

Val Kuczykowski, Chairman  
*Citizen's Advisory Committee*

(703) 591-0966

#### West Springfield

Captain Dorian Portee  
*Station Commander*

Officer Jayne Woolf  
*Crime Prevention Officer*

Janet Patrick, Chairman  
*Citizen's Advisory Committee*

(703) 644-7377

# Land Use and Transportation News

## Land Use Committee Members Wanted

The interim [Springfield District Fairfax Center Area Land Use Committee](#) is seeking nominations for committee members for its new term beginning January 2003. Homeowner and civic association members from the Fairfax Center Area are being asked to submit a nomination no later than November 1, 2002. A [nomination form](#) is located on the Springfield District [website](#); or call Marlae Schnare at (703) 324-2500 to receive a copy. For further information on the land use committee, see the [committee website](#).

## Springfield District Fairfax Center Area Land Use Committee Information

*The Land Use Committee will review the following applications at the times indicated below. Dates and times are subject to change without notice. Please contact Supervisor McConnell's office at (703) 324-2500 to confirm.*

### December 2, 2002

*Magic Moments Children's Centre, Inc.*  
SE 2002-SP-037

Location: 13129 Westbrook Drive

Tax Map Parcel 55-1 ((4)) - 6 & 7

The applicant is seeking approval for a child care center for up to 99 children. The hours of operation are from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The proposed number of employees is 11.

Tentative Land Use Meeting: 12/2/02

Tentative Planning Commission Hearing: 01/08/03

### January 14, 2003

*Christopher Companies, Inc.*  
RZ 2002-SP-033

Location: Approximately 4000 feet west of the Fairfax County Parkway (along Braddock Rd.),

Tax Map Parcel 66-2 ((1)) - 11-14

The applicant is requesting rezoning of approximately 8.92-acre property from R-1 Zoning District to the R-2 Zoning District. The applicant is seeking to construct 17 single-family detached dwelling units at a density of approximately 1.9 units per acre.

Tentative Land Use Meeting: 1/14/03

Tentative Planning Commission Hearing: 02/05/03

## Road Improvement Projects

Phase three of the Route 123 improvement project will be advertised for construction in December 2002. This phase of the project will encompass the 1.9 mile segment of Route 123 between Davis Drive and the approach to the Occoquan bridge. Construction on this phase could start as early as February or March 2003.

Burke Lake Road and Rolling Road remain on VDOT's Secondary System Construction Program. Widening of Burke Lake Road to four lanes between Lee Chapel Road and the Fairfax County Parkway is scheduled for a spring 2004 construction startup.

The widening of Rolling Road between Old Keene Mill Road and Hunter Village Drive has been moved forward to 2008.

## Interested in Land Use Issues?

Join the Springfield District Land Use LISTSERV to receive periodic e-mails regarding current land use issues and news in the Springfield District.

### How do you subscribe to the LISTSERV?

Go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists>

Enter your email address

Check "Springfield District land use news (spdlanduse)," and

Click the "Subscribe" button

## From Our Readers . . .

*On September 3, 2002, two teenagers were killed in an automobile accident on Route 50. This tragic event elicited a number of comments and questions from our readers, one of which is provided below. We asked Fair Oaks Captain Dennis Wilson for his response to this reader's concerns. We hope that you find his comments as informative as we did.*

**Q** The traffic accident that killed two teenagers this afternoon on Route 50 was an avoidable tragedy. That dump truck is not the first to cause such a horrible accident, but I hope it will be the last. All day long, construction trucks barrel down Route 50, from Sully past Fair Oaks, nearly always speeding. Something needs to be done immediately to bring these drivers to a halt. Why do I never see police cars on Route 50 ticketing people? There's a Fair Oaks police station right there. Just eight weeks ago, a good friend of mine was plowed into by a dump truck at the corner of Stringfellow Rd. and Route 50. She was turning left onto Stringfellow Rd. and was stopped in the left-hand turn lane. The dump truck veered from the far right lane to hit her, turned her car around, and traveled across the intersection to wind up on Stringfellow Rd. Just a few weeks after that, a friend of hers was also hit by a construction truck on Route 50 and was lucky to leave with her life. The impact sheared off the top of her van.

The completely out-of-control development in this area is to blame as well, because otherwise these heavy trucks wouldn't be working out here. However, ultimately, the drivers need to be ticketed and their licenses suspended if necessary, to keep us safe. As you county supervisors know, this area is primarily a family-oriented residential area, and we who drive our kids to school and preschool have become more and more concerned about our safety when driving on Route 50. Unfortunately, these two young people who died today have become the proof of the hazardous area it has become out here.

Please do something immediately. Please post police cruisers who can stop and ticket drivers for speeding, especially these heavy trucks. Please remember that our lives are in your hands and that your action can make a difference to save lives.

—Springfield District Citizen

**A** I agree that the fatal accident on Route 50 and Alder Woods drive was avoidable, as were the other 38 fatal crashes we have seen in Fairfax County so far this year which have tragically claimed 44 lives. The direct causes of these crashes lie with the actions of at least one driver involved. It is suspected this latest crash was due to the dump truck driver falling asleep. (A very difficult violation to watch out for when patrolling.)

The Fairfax County Police Department has been addressing the serious traffic safety issues on all our roadways effectively using the manpower and resources available to us. I do not know how much time you spend on Route 50 but I can assure you that over the last eight months our Motorcycle Officers alone have issued 317 violation notices on Route 50 between 66 and the Loudon County line. Additionally, the Fairfax County Police Department's Motor Carrier Safety Team has stopped 449 trucks, issuing 477 citations and removed 259 trucks off the road for safety violations. They have been especially active with the truck traffic on Route 50.

So far this year the Fair Oaks District Station has investigated 3,770 accidents, eight of which involved fatalities. We fully recognize the value of enforcement as one means of reducing accidents. In 2000, we investigated 6,706 crashes and saw a reduction to 6,551 in 2001. A slight reduction, but none-the-less, a result of stepped up enforcement aimed at particular locations with specific violations that cause the accidents. So far this year, there have been 10,022 traffic arrests in the Fair Oaks District. Strict enforcement is only part of the solution. We will continue to work for the safety of our residents utilizing our limited manpower and resources to the maximum. The Fair Oaks District Station is allocated nine officers per 11.5 hour shift to cover 88.5 square miles. I can assure you that when they are not responding to investigate accidents, crimes, false burglar alarms, citizens calls for miscellaneous reasons, (46,500 calls last year) and crossing our children at intersections before and after school, that they will be out enforcing traffic laws.

—Captain Dennis F. Wilson  
Commander  
Fair Oaks District Station

## Volunteer Opportunity November 9, 2002 - March 29, 2003

The Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund, Inc. Swimming and Water Safety Program needs volunteers to help teach children with development disabilities self-sufficiency and independence in the water. Children, ages 6 to 17, learn about water safety and aquatics skills, how to be safe on the pool deck, how to climb in and out of the pool and ask for an adult or a lifeguard when they need help.

The program is looking for anyone in the region willing to devote 1 1/2 hours of their time on Saturdays, stand in a pool, and have fun with children. This year they need at least 60 volunteers. The program cannot survive without volunteers. They are looking for high school students (volunteers must be at least 13 years old) and adults in the Northern Virginia area. High school students can earn hours towards their community service requirements for school. The program begins November 9, 2002 and ends March 29, 2003. To volunteer, please call Serena Scott at (703) 324-5214.

### CONTACT US

The *Springfield District Report* is distributed electronically in **Winter** (December-February), **Spring** (March-May), **Summer** (June-August), and **Fall** (September-November).

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).

West Springfield Government Center  
6140 Rolling Road  
Springfield, Virginia 22152  
Phone: (703) 451-8873  
Fax: (703) 451-3047  
E-mail: [springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Fairfax Center Area Office  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Suite 233  
Fairfax, VA 22035-0071

## Calendar Of Events

### October

- 7 *Board of Supervisors Meeting\**
- 7 *Land Use Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Room 9*
- 14 *Columbus Day - County Holiday*
- 28 *Board of Supervisors Meeting\**

### November

- 11 *Veteran's Day -- County Holiday*
- 18 *Board of Supervisors Meeting\**
- 28 *Thanksgiving Day - County Holiday*
- 29 *County Holiday*

### December

- 2 *Land Use Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Room 10*
- 9 *Board of Supervisors Meeting\**
- 24 *Christmas Eve - County Holiday (half day)*
- 25 *Christmas Day - County Holiday*

### January

- 1 *New Year's Day - County Holiday*
- 6 *Board of Supervisors Meeting\**
- 20 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day - County Holiday*
- 14 *Land Use Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Room 10*
- 27 *Board of Supervisors Meeting\**

### Mark Your Calendar . . .

For Saturday, **May 3, 2003**, for fun, food, and music! The first annual Springfield District Children's Fair will be held at Burke Lake Park. Call Nancy McDonnell at (703) 324-2500 for further information or if you'd like to volunteer!

\*The Board of Supervisors meets at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Auditorium at 12000 Government Center Parkway