



The **Springfield District Report**

Elaine McConnell
Springfield District
Supervisor



Winter, 2003

FY2004 Budget Will Prove Challenging

Decrease in estimates for sales tax receipts and investment earnings continue; real estate assessment increases will average 13.7%. [See Page 4](#)

Ready For Winter?

Don't go out on that icy road without taking a look at these driving tips first. [See Page 5](#)

Fairfax County Sets 2003 Legislative Agenda

Among several other initiatives, Fairfax County seeks to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and to enforce removal of illegal signs. [See Page 7](#)

Profile: Pete Murphy, Fairfax County Planning Commissioner

Playing a vital role in development of Fairfax County. [See Page 3](#)

Cox Communications Plans for Sixth Hub

Cox sites hub near Burke Village Shopping Center. [See Page 2](#)

MORE NEWS

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Message from Supervisor McConnell

Reflections

As we begin 2003, it is perhaps useful to reflect on what has been accomplished during the past year. I have worked hard on a number of high priority issues for the citizens of the Springfield District and have been successful in accomplishing most of my objectives in a very difficult fiscal environment.

One of my top priorities has been to maintain funding for the Route 123 project. As you know, the Commonwealth has a deficit of over \$6 billion dollars in the next two years and keeping this project on track has been difficult. I am pleased to report we have been successful thus far and are tracking this closely. The reason 123 is so important is because it is a major emergency ingress/egress route to and from Washington, D.C. I remain very concerned about further terrorist attacks in and around the capital region and this project simply must be completed in order to increase citizen safety.

A second major priority having regional implications is the building of a new communications center for the Fairfax County Police. The new center, in addition to having vastly increased capabilities, will also house personnel from other agencies including the Virginia Department of Transportation and the State Police. The building of this center is critical as it affords significant benefits in coordination among agencies that will be first responders to terrorist or other activities in the region.

Given this is the first full year of an expanded Springfield District, I am pleased to report we have an active, diverse, citizen driven Land Use Committee ([see page 6](#)) providing input and advice on the vast majority of land use issues coming before the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Also, for the first time in several

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years, we have every citizen commission and advisory board position filled in Springfield District. This is a tribute to our citizens who believe it is important to be an active participant in local government. I am very pleased with all my appointees and value their advice and efforts greatly.

I truly believe my office has been one of the most innovative and cost effective in Fairfax County. We have made a real commitment to keep citizens informed through our [website](#) and our quarterly newsletter, posted not only on the website, but delivered electronically to constituent e-mail addresses. We continue to build one of the largest and most current e-mail data bases in the county and we are constantly seeking new ways to inform all our citizens in the most effective and efficient manner. The added benefit of sending our material electronically is cost. I am proud to report my office saved almost \$15,000 from our FY2002 budget allocation and much of this was attributable to extensive use of the Internet. We are very conscious we are using citizens' tax dollars and are constantly trying to do more with less.

I remain confident and upbeat as we begin 2003 and I wish all of you a wonderful new year. Sincerely,




Need A Speaker At Your Next Association Meeting?

If you would like Supervisor McConnell to be your guest speaker at your next homeowner or civic association meeting, please contact [Dianne Peikin](#) at (703) 451-8873 to make arrangements. Thank You!

Cox Communications Sites Sixth Hub In Springfield District

Cox Communications has begun Phase 4 of the Digital Upgrade—the phase that includes the Springfield District. 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 filed an application with the County to establish their sixth hub site (switching station) within 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 the building will be an approximately 4,500 square foot one-story structure with a façade similar to that of the Burke Village Shopping Center. According to Cox, this and the other five hubs already located in the County are necessary for the rebuild of the existing cable system.

A public hearing was held to consider this application at the Planning Commission meeting on January 8, 2003. The Planning Commission approved the application.

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](#)

Boards, Authorities and Commissions News

Pete Murphy: Playing A Vital Role In The Development Of Fairfax County

Serving his 21st year on the Fairfax County Planning Commission, Peter F. Murphy, Jr. was first appointed by the Board of Supervisors to represent the Springfield District in December 1982, upon a motion of then Supervisor Marie Travesky. He has subsequently been reappointed by the Board for additional four year terms in 1986, 1990, 1994, 1998 and 2002, on motions introduced by Supervisor Elaine McConnell. Commissioner Murphy's most recent reappointment took effect in January 2003 and expires in December 2006.

“Representing and working with the citizens of the Springfield District on the County’s Planning Commission for over 20 years has been both a challenge and rewarding experience,” Murphy said. Adding, “together we have taken an active part in planning the future of Fairfax County as we watched our county evolve into a vibrant and dynamic community where people are born, go to school, recreate, attend houses of worship, work and retire.” Commissioner Murphy is serving his 13th consecutive year as commission chairman, having previously served two terms as vice chairman and three years as commission secretary.

Commissioner Murphy has also chaired the following Commission committees: Seminar Committee; Proffers/Staff Reports Committee; Development Criteria Committee; Retail Uses in Industrial Districts Committee; 456/2232 Procedures Committee; and the Mini-Marts Committee. In addition, he has been an active member of many other Commission committees: Personnel and Budget; Policy and Procedures; Subcommittee on P-Districts; Lot Reduction Ordinance Amendment; 50th Anniversary; Redevelopment and Housing; Transportation; Fort Belvoir Engineer Proving Ground Task Force; Route 28 Corridor Task Force; Capital Improvement Program; C&I Advisory; Parks; and Infill and Residential Development.

Commissioner Murphy was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to the Baseball Site Selection Task Force and served as chairman of the Western Fairfax VRE Station Study Task Force. He currently chairs the County's Telecommunications Task Force. He has also served as the first elected chairman of the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission's Council for Planning Commission Chairmen.

Commissioner Murphy served six years on the Board of Directors for Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. (formerly FAXFAIR, Inc.) and was elected vice president for planning and administration and later vice president for programs. He is now a member of Celebrate Fairfax's President's Council.

Commissioner Murphy has also been the recipient of numerous community awards to include: the Times Courier Citizen of the Year Award; the Distinguished Public Service Leadership Award, presented by the Springfield District Council; the Fairfax County Volunteer of the Year Award in the Community Leader Category; an Honors Award from the County's Department of Planning and Zoning; and in 1999 he was selected Lord Fairfax for the Springfield District.

“As we move into the 21st century,” Murphy said, “there is still much work to be done for our district, our county, Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth. I look forward, during the next four years, to continue working with our citizens on land use and transportation issues.”

In the private sector, Commissioner Murphy is in the public relations and communications field. He resides with his wife, Charlene, and daughter, Cherilyn, in Burke.

For further information about the Boards, Authorities, and Commissions, please see the County [website](#). For additional information on the Planning Commission and their agenda, please see their [website](#).

Budget News



Fiscal Year 2004 (FY2004) Will Be A Challenging Year For Fairfax County Board Of Supervisors

FY2004 will be one of the most challenging years from a budget standpoint in the history of the county. Supervisors will try to balance the needs of the school system against a continuing rise in real estate assessments, estimated to increase an average of 13.7%. Further complicating the equation is the fact that fully 59% of all county revenues will be derived from real estate tax receipts, up from 50.8% in FY1999.

Several factors have conspired to make this an extraordinary situation and they are as follows. First, sales tax receipts in FY2004 are estimated to comprise 4.9% (\$128.1 million) of the general fund. This is down from 6.2% (\$133.5 million) as recently as FY2001. Second, the continuing interest rate reductions by the Federal Reserve Board have directly impacted the yield earned on county investments. For example, the investment interest earned on county investments in FY2001 totaled \$56.3 million. This figure is estimated to drop to only \$14.3 million in FY2004. Third, the commercial/industrial percentage of the total real estate assessment base will decrease to 19%. This percentage continues to drop from high of 26.76% in FY1990 and reflects the continuing economic problems experienced in Northern Virginia, specifically the collapse of the high technology and telecommunications industries. In fact, the vacancy rate for buildings in Fairfax

County is currently 10.2% and if sublets are included this figure increases to 16.5%. County-wide office inventory is 100 million square feet and this equates to a 15 month supply of office space. Most economists now believe there will not be an economic recovery until the end of FY2003 and this delay of a possible economic recovery will continue to pressure county finances.

Further issues and areas of concern in forecasting revenues and expenditures include: (1) The potential war with Iraq (2) The current volatility of the financial markets (3) The cost of the sniper prosecution (4) Public health issues and requirements, i.e. West Nile Virus (5) Further Federal Reserve action (6) The recovery or non recovery of tourism and travel (7) Business and consumer confidence (8) State budget reductions, and (9) Increased service costs due to a population increase of 6.3%.

Of particular concern are the reductions in state aid. As you may know, the Commonwealth must cut

over \$6 billion dollars from its \$50 billion dollar budget for the next two years. This means the county will have to either pick up the funding shortfall or curtail services. Given the county's financial condition, we believe services in non-vital areas will be looked at closely for possible reductions.

FY2004 Budget Estimates

**Sales Tax Receipts—\$128.1 million
(a decrease of \$5.4 million from
FY2001)**

**Investment Interest—\$14.3 million
(a decrease of \$42 million from FY
2001)**

**Commercial Percentage of the Real
Estate Assessment Base—19%**

**Real Estate Assessment—Average
Increase of 13.7%**

News You Can Use



Winter Driving Tips

This article was composed from information on various websites. For further information, call Nancy McDonnell at (703) 324-2500 or send her an [e-mail](#).

How to prepare:

- Make sure to allow for adequate time.
- Watch the weather report before you venture out.
- Prepare your car for the winter season by getting a tune-up, checking fluid levels, wiper blades, charge up battery, have good break pads, keep gas tank full, and make certain your tires have good tread. It may be a good idea to purchase snow tires for your vehicle.
- Supplies you should keep in your trunk are an ice scraper/brush, shovel, a bag of sand, extra wiper fluid, a blanket, boots, a cell phone/charger, jumper cables, flares, a flashlight, antifreeze, food, and a first aid kit.
- Make sure to scrape all ice and snow from your vehicle including the hood, roof, and trunk. Make certain to fully clean all window surfaces for maximum visibility.
- Remember to wear your seatbelt.
- Wear warm clothing.
- Do not warm up your car in a garage as this may create a buildup of carbon monoxide gas.

Tips while on the road:

- Turn on the traffic report while driving.
- Stick to main roads.
- Reduce speed. Remember; posted signs are for clear conditions.
- Remain cautious while driving larger vehicles; do not become overconfident.
- Use extra caution while driving on overpasses and bridges; these surfaces may freeze before asphalt roads.
- Beware of icy patches on the roads.

If you loose control:

- Remain calm.
- Do not slam on your brakes. Steer your car carefully the direction you wish to go and then apply pressure to brake/accelerator slowly after you have regained control.

If it becomes too difficult to see/drive:

- Pull over to the side of the road.
- Use your emergency flashers or road flares.
- Stay in your vehicle.
- Call police for assistance.

Land Use News

Springfield District Fairfax Center Land Use Committee Information

The Land Use Committee will review the following applications at the times indicated below. Please contact Supervisor McConnell's office at (703) 324-2500 to confirm. Please visit the [Land Use website](#) for a complete schedule.

January 14, 2003, 7:00 p.m. (NGC*, Conf. Rms. 4 & 5)

(1) *Christopher Companies, Inc.*

RZ 2002-SP-033

Location: Approximately 4000 feet west of the Fairfax County Pkwy. (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 Planning Commission Hearing: 02/05/03

(2) *Fairfax County Family Shelter*

Location: Near the intersection of Lee Hwy. and Stringfellow Rd. (immediately west of Meadows Farms Nursery)

Tax Map Parcel 55-3 ((1)) 27A1 and 27B

Fairfax County is proposing to construct a family shelter for parents with infant and elementary school-age children. The shelter will be staffed on a 24/7 basis and numerous services including transportation will be provided to the clientele with the objective of getting them back into traditional housing.

Tentative Planning Commission Hearing: Spring 2003

March 4, 2003, 7:00 p.m. (NGC*, Conf. Rms. 4 & 5)

11725 Lee Highway—Nursery School/Child Care Center
SE 2002-SP-048

Location: South side of Lee Hwy., between Holly Ave. and Village Dr., approx. 3200 ft. west of the Lee Hwy. and Waples Mill Rd. intersection

Tax Map Parcel 56-2 ((1)) - 67

The applicant is requesting approval to construct a nursery school/child care center on 2.22 acres to the rear of the property and to permit commercial parking for the by-right commercial development located at the front of the site.

Tentative Planning Commission Hearing: 04/23/03

**North Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035*

Supervisor McConnell Appoints New Committee Members

Supervisor McConnell and Springfield District Planning Commissioner Peter Murphy appointed eleven members to the 2003 Springfield District Fairfax Center Land Use Committee.

The members are:

Mark Cummings, Chair
Brentwood Civic Association

Lowell Smith, Vice Chair
Birch Pond HOA

Fred Bailey
Deerfield Forest HOA

Gail Brugger
Little Rocky Run HOA

Sherry Fisher
Ridgetop Commons HOA

Patricia Goins
Leehigh Village/Birchtree Civic Association

Tom McDonald
Buckner Forest HOA

Philip Poole
Cannon Ridge Civic Association

Jeff Saxe
Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce

Steve Wallace
Greenbriar Civic Association

Claudette Ward
Greater Willow Springs Civic Association

The Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month unless that day is a holiday in which case the meeting will be held the following Tuesday. Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. in a designated conference room in the Fairfax County Government Center. Call [Marlae Schnare](#) at (703) 324-2500 for further information about members and meetings.

Fairfax County Legislative Program For The 2003 Virginia General Assembly*

Below are listed the legislative initiatives of Fairfax County that will be addressed in the 2003 Virginia General Assembly.

Erosion and Sediment Control—Projects on Tidal Waters

Initiate legislation to delete existing provisions in [Virginia Code 10.1-560](#), the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Law, which exempt “Shore erosion control projects on tidal waters when the projects are approved by local wetland boards, the Marine Resources Commission or the United States Army Corps of Engineers from the definition of land disturbing activity.” Submission of an erosion and sediment control plan and the associated request for a land-disturbing permit is the primary vehicle through which local jurisdictions (1) review projects that do not require building permits and are not subject to subdivision and site plan ordinances for compliance with local regulations, (2) provide for inspection of construction activity, and (3) ensure that construction is performed with the appropriate erosion and sediment controls.

Human Rights Ordinance—Sexual Orientation

Initiate legislation to permit the County, as an urban county executive form of government, to prohibit discrimination in the areas of housing, real estate transactions, employment, public accommodations, credit and education on the basis of sexual orientation. Fairfax County has already taken actions pursuant to State legislation, in the preceding areas on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, childbirth, and disability.

Parking—Delinquent Tickets Collection

Initiate legislation so that the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) may enter into an agreement with a locality to refuse to renew State vehicle registration of any applicant with two or more unpaid parking tickets, delinquent for at least 90 days from the date of issue. Notification requirements of at least 30 days notice already are prescribed in the current law.

Parking—Increased Fines For Repeat Commercial Vehicle Offenses

Initiate an amendment to [Virginia Code 46.2-1224](#), which would increase fines for individuals who repeatedly park commercial vehicles illegally on streets in residential communities.

Public Safety—Dangerous Weapons In Public Facilities

Initiate legislation to allow the County, as an urban county executive form of government, to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the possession of dangerous weapons in or on any facility or property owned or leased by the County, with certain exceptions, including any person who has been issued a permit to carry a concealed handgun. Violation of such an ordinance would be punishable as a misdemeanor.

Public Safety—In Building Radio Coverage

Initiate a legislative resolution to access safety radio communications in building coverage problems throughout the State. With this information, the State and localities can determine if there is a need for legislation to require a minimum level of in-building radio performance to achieve adequate public safety radio coverage that meets the needs of law enforcement and fire service organizations.

Taxation—Service Districts

Initiate legislation to amend [Virginia Code 15.2-2403](#), the current service district law, which now provides for con-

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trol of infestations of gypsy moths, cankerworms and other plant pests, to include insects that are harmful to humans, such as mosquitoes. Expansion of the current service district to include such harmful insects will provide the County with a stable source of funding and use the current administrative support structure to effectively treat this potentially harmful pest.

Transportation—Bus Shelter Advertising

Initiate legislation authorizing local governments to place advertisements in bus shelters located in Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) rights-of-way. Allowing advertising in shelters would provide a way to improve public transit service without expending public funds. The County would contract with a private entity and establish standards for the bus shelter advertising. In exchange for the right to advertise on bus shelters, a private entity would install and maintain the shelters and provide transit information at the shelters.

Transportation—Quick Take Eminent Domain Authority for Sidewalk Projects

Initiate legislation to authorize localities to use “quick take” eminent domain procedures to acquire property needed for sidewalk projects.

Tree Preservation—Conservation and Replacement Species

Initiate legislation to amend [Virginia Code 15.2-961](#) to allow Fairfax County and/or other Planning District 8 localities to:

(1) Require that existing trees on development sites be preserved in order to meet post-development minimum tree canopy requirements in an amount proportionate to the percentage of the site that was covered by trees predevelopment; also, allow urbanized locations to increase from 15 to 20 percent the amount of tree canopy that would be required at 20 years after development on residential sites zoned more than 10 but less than 20 dwelling units per acre, and to increase from 20 to 30 percent the amount of tree cover that would be required on residential sites zoned 10 or fewer dwelling units per acre.

(2) Designate tree species that can and cannot be planted to receive tree canopy credits.

Zoning—Illegal Signs in Rights-of-Way

Initiate legislation to amend [Virginia Code 33.1-375.1](#) to allow certain localities the option of including certain limitations in agreements with the Commonwealth Commissioner to enforce removal of illegal signs in State rights-of-way.

For further information on these initiatives, please contact Fairfax County’s Legislative Liaison, [Susan Mittereder](#), at (703) 324-2640. The Virginia General Assembly convenes January 8, 2003. To identify your local representatives, see the Virginia State Board of Elections [website](#). Click on “Where Do I Vote?” By submitting your address, you can determine your state representatives as well as your polling place.

*The Fairfax County Legislative Program for the 2003 Virginia General Assembly was adopted on December 9, 2002 and can be viewed at the county’s [website](#). The complete program includes county positions, regional positions, and joint positions (between the Fairfax County School Board and the Board of Supervisors).

324-INFO

Ever need county information during non-business hours? Or how about a resource for citizens needing program or service information? Then you might want to remember the county's 24-hour-a-day recorded information line, 324-INFO. Accessible to anyone with a touch tone telephone, the citizen information line features over 200 recordings on topics ranging from animals to police and housing to taxes. So the next time you need to know, call 703-324-INFO (4636).

Your Community, Your Call

continued by popular request . . .

“Association Meetings”

January 14, 2003

Cable Channel 16

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

This event will be replayed on January 10 and 31 at 8:00 p.m. on Channel 16

For further information call [Cal Wagner](#), Fairfax County's Community Liaison, at (703) 324-5977

CONTACT US

The *Springfield District Report* is distributed electronically in Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall.

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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Fax: (703) 324-3149

2003 Calendar Of Events

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 4 & 5*
- 27 *Board of Supervisors Meeting**

February

- 4 *Land Use Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 12000 Government Center*
- 10 *Board of Supervisors Meeting**
- 17 *Presidents Day—County Holiday*
- 24 *Board of Supervisors Meeting**

March

- 4 *Land Use Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 12000 Government Center*
- 10 *Board of Supervisors Meeting**
- 24 *Board of Supervisors Meeting**

April

- 1 *Land Use Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 12000 Government Center*
- 7 *Board of Supervisors Meeting**
- 8, 9 *Board of Supervisors Meeting* - Budget Public Hearings*
- 21 *Board of Supervisors Meeting* - Budget Mark-Up*
- 28 *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*