



# HERRITY REPORT

Pat Herrity, Springfield Supervisor



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## Herrity Report Highlights *The First Five Months*

Communication is important to me. The *Herrity Report* is one vehicle to keep you up to date on what I am doing on your behalf. We have begun additional communications efforts-town hall meetings, office on wheels, etc. I believe communication is a two-way street. I encourage your feedback on the items in this newsletter or other thoughts that concern you.

This newsletter is a compilation of articles from the first six months of the *Herrity Report*. The full newsletters can be found by visiting my website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield) and clicking on the newsletter link on the left side of the page. I strongly encourage you to sign up for the *Herrity Report* which you can also do by visiting my website. My newsletters will keep you informed on my activities and it will also give you a chance to give me feedback on my positions.



Supervisor Herrity greets families at the Springfield Days Parade

Sincerely,

  
Pat Herrity

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*Communication is important to me. The Herrity Report is one vehicle to keep you up to date on what I am doing on your behalf. I encourage your feedback on the items in this newsletter or other thoughts that concern you.*

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# TRANSPORTATION

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## Working Towards A Solution For the I-66 Corridor May 2008 Edition

The I-66 corridor may be the most congested corridor in Northern Virginia. Because of the congestion many of the County’s secondary roads, including Braddock Road, Route 29, and Little River Turnpike, are used as alternatives and therefore are also extremely congested. In 1999 the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) performed a Major Investment Study (MIS) for the I-66 corridor. The MIS concluded that a multimodal investment strategy is required to accommodate projected travel demand in the study area by the year 2020. In 2001, VDOT and VDRPT used the MIS as a starting point for a multimodal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the I-66 corridor from west of the I-66/I-495 interchange (at Cedar Lane) to Route 15. The EIS was stopped in 2002 and there has been no significant work done towards a solution for the congestion on I-66 since.

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*I will continue to actively pursue a solution to the congestion on I-66 and surrounding roads.*

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The funds for the EIS have remained available and VDOT and VDRPT have now restarted the multimodal EIS for I-66 outside the Beltway. The revised schedule for the EIS has not been completed but should be available toward the end of the year. Because completion of this study is a critical step in the process towards a solution to I-66 congestion, I made a proposal, which was unanimously approved by the Board, to send a letter to the Secretary of Transportation and the Chairman of the NVTA expressing this Board’s full support for the timely completion of the study and that we are ready and willing to assist VDOT and VDRPT with the study should they need our assistance. I further asked that our Department of Transportation assign someone to monitor and provide regular updates on the progress of this project and to work to insure the project scope includes the tie in to I-495 and not just to Cedar Lane. Without completion of this study even if money became available there would not be a solution on the table to fund. It also is required before any private sector proposals could be offered—much like the HOT lanes proposal on I-495. I will continue to actively pursue a solution to the congestion on I-66 and surrounding roads.

## Improvements at the Fair Lakes Parkway / Fairfax County Parkway Interchange

February 2008 Edition

I'm sure many Springfield District residents get as frustrated as I do each time I have to travel thorough the Fairfax County Parkway/Fair Lakes Parkway interchange—especially during peak travel hours. I have met with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) several times regarding this intersection and am happy to report that a project to improve this corridor is fully funded at approximately \$75M, according to FCDOT staff.

The plan for this improvement, which has been in the works for years, includes the construction of grade-separated interchanges at the Fair Lakes Parkway/Fairfax County Parkway intersection and the Fairfax County Parkway intersection with Monument Drive. Its final design was chosen by VDOT and FCDOT staff based on input received from residents at a public meeting held in June, 2002. The signals at the intersections will be eliminated and an additional lane will be provided in each direction on the Fairfax County Parkway between the interchange ramps (I-66 to Fair Lakes Parkway and Route 50 to Fair Lakes Parkway). Also planned are new sidewalks and a multi-purpose trail throughout the majority of the scope of the project.

Over the last two months, I have worked with representatives of Virginia Power, which has agreed to start relocation of its transmission lines in the vicinity of the project, as well as facilitated a meeting between VDOT and the Peterson Companies to resolve an outstanding storm water management concerns. Resolution of these issues has helped speed up the project's completion.

A visual rendering of the project, which is currently scheduled to go to bid in March, 2010, is available on VDOT's website at: <http://www.virginiadot.org/images/pr-nova-fairfax-rt7100-fairlakes-image.jpg>

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## Access To Fairfax County Parkway and I-95 Needed For Fullerton Industrial Park

May 2008 Edition

At the June 2 Board of Supervisors meeting I made a proposal, jointly supported by Supervisors Hyland and McKay, which was unanimously approved by the Board, to find funding and much-needed access to the Fairfax County Parkway and I-95 for vehicles exiting the Fullerton Industrial Park *at the completion* of the Parkway and its interchanges. Many of the businesses in Fullerton Industrial Park located there primarily for access to I-95. Currently this traffic *has* access to the Parkway and I-95 northbound via Fullerton Road. Plans call for Fullerton Road to become an overpass with no access to the Parkway and also call for a new ramp at Boudinot Drive. The problem is the ramp and Boudinot is in Phase Four of the project, costs approximately \$17M, and is unfunded. This leaves the numerous businesses in the Fullerton Industrial Park, including a UPS facility with 250 trucks, isolated from the Parkway and I-95 North. The only option for these trucks is to travel through main Springfield on an already congested Backlick Road or to go long out of their way to Rolling Road to reach the Parkway and/or I-95 North. Through truck traffic is currently prohibited on Fullerton Road at Rolling Road.

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*This is not a perfect solution, but the current situation is completely unacceptable.*

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Supervisor Hyland and I proposed that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) include a single ramp to allow access from Fullerton Road to the Parkway and I-95 North. FHWA has included this ramp in the RFP. Very preliminary estimates for this single ramp are approximately \$6M and it is unclear if funds are available. This is not a perfect solution, but the current situation is completely unacceptable. Thus, we have directed our Department of Transportation to work with VDOT, FHWA, and the Department of Defense to find funding and/or a solution for this much-needed access.

## Working to Bring Wi-Fi to the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and Cell Coverage to Clifton

April 2008 Edition

As you have likely deduced from my previous newsletters, transportation is a priority for me. In addition to sitting on several other transportation-related commissions and committees, I represent Fairfax County on one of two allocated seats on the Virginia Rail Express (VRE) Operations Board. During a brief on VRE operations, I inquired about WiFi coverage on the trains. I was told that this was not possible due to the “black hole” with no cell coverage in the Clifton area. Separately, for some time, I’ve been aware of and working to find a solution to the cell phone “black hole” problem in the Clifton area. I recently discussed this problem with an attorney that represents different carriers and works with a partnership between Norfolk Southern Railroad and a group of telecommunications professionals. In speaking with this attorney, I learned that no carrier has any immediate plans to fix this “black hole” problem but that a possible solution could potentially be provided via the existing Norfolk Southern lines, off site from residential communities. This company constructs communications towers for railroad use and offers these towers for co-location to cellular carriers, municipalities, and non-profit organizations. The group has an immediate need for a communications upgrade for safety reasons and I see this as a great opportunity to piggy-back on those efforts.

I presented a proposal to have VRE look at providing WiFi service on VRE at the April 18th VRE Board Operations meeting. Chairman Jenkins and other VRE Board members ultimately approved a motion to have VRE staff evaluate Wi-Fi service for both VRE lines and work with corresponding jurisdictions to fill in these “black holes”. This capability would allow riders to use lap tops, cell phones, and other current wireless technologies on their trip to work. I believe this service will significantly increase ridership and thus the cost effectiveness of VRE. Additionally, VRE staff was directed to investigate whether this could be incorporated into VRE’s Strategic Plan, a document that ultimately sets the direction for VRE to pursue in the future.

*West Springfield Government Center on Rolling Road*

## Short Term Improvements on I-66

January 2008 Edition

Beginning as early as April, VDOT will be opening the shoulder lanes on I-66 an extra hour during both the morning and evening weekday commutes. During the morning rush, the lanes will be open until 11 a.m.; in the evening, the lanes will open an hour earlier, at 2 p.m. I have asked VDOT to study the opening of the shoulder lanes on weekends during periods of congestion. I also expressed my support for the opening of the slip ramps at Monument Drive and Stringfellow Road during non-HOV hours to improve access to this part of the district-as long as it can be implemented safely. At its January 28 meeting, the Board approved sending a letter to VDOT on behalf of the entire Board of Supervisors in support of these initiatives. Long term improvements to I-66 will be a subject of a future Herry Report.

## More Transportation Articles

Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield) to view these articles

- **Increasing Pedestrian Safety in Fairfax County – April 2008 Edition**
- **Two New Community Parking Districts Added in Springfield – February Edition**
- **Rolling Road/Barnack Drive Signal Update – January Edition**



# Herrity Proposes Budget Transparency Measure

January 2008 Edition

**H**ave you ever tried to figure out where all the money goes in Fairfax County? Currently, the county makes all of the information available but you would have to spend hours poring through documents to find out how much Fairfax County spends on any given item. The fact that this information is not readily accessible is a problem that needed to be addressed.

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At the January 28, 2008 Board meeting I introduced a motion to create an online budget and expenditure database that will give all of Fairfax County's taxpayers a simple and easy way to examine how and where their tax dollars are being spent. The Board instructed county staff to investigate the cost of this measure as well as how we would implement it and is due to report back to us at the March 8th county budget workshop.

# *Citizens' Budget Review Committee: Up and Running*

January 2008 Edition

**T**he Citizens' Budget Review Committee is up and running after two strategy sessions. If you have an interest in serving on a subcommittee, please contact Christian Deschauer at 703-451-8873. The budget is due to be released on February 25th and I will be holding citizen budget briefings with county staff in March. The vision and goals of this Committee are as follows:

The Citizens Budget Review Committee (Committee) will employ a common sense approach towards examining how taxpayer dollars are being collected and spent for Fairfax County government and school services. The Committee will apply principles of accountability, customer focus, and prioritization with a goal of reinvigorating government into a more efficient user of precious taxpayer dollars.

- Review the role and priorities of the Fairfax County Government
- Develop near-term recommendations for action to close the budget shortfall
- Challenge Fairfax County government leaders to embrace long-term planning activities
- Help to ensure that citizens have a government keenly focused on the taxpayers' interests

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*Supervisor Herrity speaks with a citizen about the FY2009 Budget at one of two Town Hall meetings conducted in the Springfield District*

### **Standing up for Fiscal Responsibility**

#### **March 2008 Edition**

**A**t the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Supervisors the Board voted to advertise a 3 cent tax rate increase even though the County Executive had delivered a balanced budget at last years tax rate of 89 cents. Before the 92 cent rate was adopted I made a motion to advertise last year's rate of 89 cents which if adopted would provide a tax break to most of the county's taxpayers. My motion failed 8-2 with myself and Supervisor Michael Frey being the only ones voting in favor of fiscal responsibility. Unfortunately eight of my colleagues on the board, including the Chairman, were not up to making the tough decisions on the budget and instead they opted to increase the heavy burden that our taxpayers already bear. Taxes have doubled over the last 5-7 years and the budget has grown by over \$1 billion over the rate of inflation and population growth.

### **Update on the Budget**

#### **Special Edition: Budget Markup 2008**

**Y**esterday we marked up the proposed budget for FY 2009. A budget with a 3 cent tax increase was proposed by our Budget Chair, Supervisor Sharon Bulova, and it passed by a vote of 8-2 with myself and Supervisor Michael Frey voting against the measure. Before the budget with the 3 cent tax increase was voted on, Supervisor Frey and I presented a balanced budget that contained no tax increase. That budget was defeated by an 8-2 vote with me and Supervisor Frey being the only yes votes.

After our substitute budget was defeated I attempted to make a series of amendments to fund items that I thought were important but were not currently funded in Supervisor Bulova's budget. Chairman Gerry Connolly attempted to block me from making my amendments by asking the County Attorney to rule me out of order. The County Attorney ruled that I did have the right to make my amendments and so I offered an amendment to repeal the fee that children are now forced to pay so that they can participate in youth sports and to cover the expense by making a cut

in the County's motor pool. Chairman Connolly then asked Supervisor Bulova to make a motion to refer the amendment to County staff so that they could avoid an up or down vote on my amendment. Unfortunately the rest of the Board, with the exception of Supervisor Frey, went along with the Chairman's plan to keep us from having a vote on the proposal. It became clear that Chairman Connolly was not going to allow votes on any of my amendments so I refrained from offering my other amendments, certainly not democracy's finest moment.

### **Why did we present a substitute budget proposal?**

**F**irst and foremost we felt that this is not the time to be raising taxes. With the economy headed toward a recession and food and gas prices rapidly rising, we should not be asking the taxpayers of Fairfax County to pay more just so the Board could avoid making cuts. Our taxes have doubled over the past seven years and this was an opportunity to take some of the burden off our citizens. Unfortunately we did not take that opportunity. The budget that Supervisor Frey and I presented had over \$60 million dollars in cuts while the budget proposed by Supervisor Bulova, and passed by the Board, contained just \$16 million in cuts and a tax increase. Our budget has grown over \$1 billion more than the rate of population growth and inflation over the past 4 years and we could not find more than \$16 million worth of cuts? That doesn't seem right to me.

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# BUDGET AND TAXES

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## What We Did Get Done

**A**lthough the budget that Supervisor Frey and I presented was defeated I was still able to get some items that were extremely important to me included in the budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that was passed.

- **Another Step Closer to a South County Middle School:** Through the efforts of me and Supervisor Gerry Hyland, we were able to amend language in the Capital Improvement Program to say that the \$10 million in additional capital improvement funds that will be given to the School Board for the South County area can only be used to build a middle school and not for a wing on the existing secondary school as Supervisor Bulova's proposal would have allowed. As I have said before, the wing was a shortsighted solution to a long term problem and I am very pleased that Supervisor Hyland and I were able to work together to secure the Board's unanimous support for this \$10 million for a middle school. This type of forward looking approach, in a bi-partisan fashion, is what will help provide needed relief for not only these citizens, but the impact will be felt throughout the county.
- **Opening the Process to the Public:** In recent years the leaders of our County have not been particularly receptive to outside input on the budget. Since I joined the Board in January I have been continually saying that we need to include the public and our County employees in the budget process. One of the first things I did was create a Citizen's Budget Review Committee. I also proposed a board matter for creating a web based expenditure database that our citizens could easily access from their home computers. Both of these concepts were included in the Board's budget guidance for FY 2010.
- **Fully Funding Pay Raises for Our Employees:** After the County Executive recommended cutting employee pay raises by 50%, I was the first Supervisor to call for the full funding to be restored. I am pleased to say that at the last minute Supervisor Bulova decided to fully fund employee pay raises in her budget. It is irresponsible to balance the budget on the backs of our county employees. We made a promise to them when we switched to pay for performance and we need to keep that commitment until our financial situation precludes us from doing so. We are not currently in that situation.
- **Two New Adult Protective Services Workers:** I proposed adding two full time positions to Adult Protective Services (APS) which was passed in the final budget. Our APS workers are responsible for investigating reports of elderly citizens being abused and the workers we currently have are carrying caseloads that far exceed recommended state standards. These two merit positions were needed to ensure that our most vulnerable seniors are protected. These positions were funded from the existing agency budget.

## What Didn't Get Done?

**I** have some serious issues with some of the things that were not included in the budget that was passed.

- **We didn't fully fund the Protecting Our Children From Sexual Predators Program (P'CASO):** The P'CASO program is made up of six Fairfax County Police Officers who monitor the sex offenders who live in Fairfax County and also patrol internet chat rooms looking for predators who are attempting to prey on vulnerable children. In years past this program had been funded by a federal grant but that grant is no longer available to us. Unfortunately Supervisor Bulova's budget only funded four of the positions in her budget so as of July 1, 2008 we will have two less Police Officers monitoring the sexual offenders in our County. In my budget I proposed fully funding all six officers. It should be noted that we have 350-400 registered sex offenders living in our County with most of them classified as violent sex offenders. I am very disappointed that in a \$6 billion budget we could not find the additional \$255,000 it would take to fully fund this important program that keeps our children safe.
- **We Kept the Penny for Affordable Housing:** I have detailed my issues with the Penny for Affordable Housing elsewhere in this newsletter so I will just say here that I am disappointed that we continue to fund this flawed program with over \$20 million every year.
- **We Didn't Eliminate the Field User Fee:** Our youth sports programs are absolutely critical to Fairfax County's children – be it providing an alternative to gang activity, fighting obesity or in its role in developing the character and leadership

skills of our future workforce. The burden of administering this fee causes our youth sports programs, families, and their children to waste valuable time and money. It also has the potential to keep kids from participating in a youth sports program, especially during these tough economic times. Since I have taken office many parents and youth leagues have expressed concerns to me about this fee and as a parent of two children active in youth sports and a youth sports coach myself, I share their concerns. Many are under the impression that these funds are dedicated to synthetic turf fields but this is not the case. This is an unnecessary tax on the families of Fairfax County and it should be repealed. My proposal to eliminate the tax was defeated. The proposal would have had absolutely no impact on sports funding.

- **We Didn't Fully Fund an Enhanced Strike Team to Deal With the Illegal Boarding House Issue:** Illegal boarding houses continue to pop up left and right in Fairfax. Our substitute budget dedicated \$1.5 million for the Enhanced Strike Team. With an additional funding level of \$1.5 million we would have had more resources to dedicate to investigating and getting rid of these illegal boarding houses.
- **No School Aged Child Care (SACC) Rooms at White Oaks ES:** I included \$112,000 for two new SACC rooms at White Oaks ES. White Oaks is one of only six schools in the county that offers no SACC program. In years past the students at White Oaks ES were transported to Cherry Run ES to participate in their SACC program but the school system is no longer providing transportation for these students. My Citizen's Budget Review Committee is investigating more efficient ways to run the SACC program so more children can be served at the same cost. The County Executive is also examining the SACC program to see if there is a better way to provide this service. These reviews have not been completed yet.

## Unanswered Questions

Several of my budget questions went unanswered by staff. I inquired about the use of consultants but the details were not available on a timely basis. I have also asked the Board of Supervisors Auditor to look at consultant use. A basic measure I use as the Chief Financial Officer of a private company is square footage by employee. I believe we can save significant dollars on office lease costs but the information I asked for was not provided. I also did not get a measure of the true number of full time equivalent employees (FTE) the County has so I could accurately gauge the growth in programs over the years. I will continue to try to employ these private sector financial practices as we work on the FY '10 budget.

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*I will continue to try to employ these private sector financial practices as we work on the FY '10 budget.*

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## Where do we go from here?

As the budget for fiscal year 2009 is enacted by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors it is a time to celebrate! Not for the misguided appropriation of taxpayers dollars, nor for the poor fiscal approach to the looming budget crisis, nor for the tax increase, but instead it is a victory for the citizens because your voice was heard.

For more than four years the politburo style rubber-stamping of budgets was the norm, but this time the voice of the average citizen was heard, though unfortunately not followed through on in many cases. Since taking office in January, I have been working with and listening to taxpayers such as you. As a result of these meetings, I formulated an alternative budget plan

*Supervisor Herrity and Soo Yee, Pandemic Influenza Educator with the Fairfax County Health Department, at the Lunar New Year Celebration at Fair Oaks Mall*



## BUDGET AND TAXES

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for moving misguided spending priorities away from well-organized special interests to the priorities of all citizens. But being in the minority often means my concerns, though given limited discussion, are trumped by the majority.

So how is this good news? First we now have a board willing to discuss more transparency in the budget, something I have championed from my first day as an elected official. The board is also engaging the taxpayers going forward to work on the next budget, which was routinely denied in the past. The next step is for us all to engage in the process of prioritizing our government to ensure that our tax dollars are being well spent.

My colleagues on the board have set budget guidelines for fiscal year 2010 and some of them are real doozies. Don't be too surprised when you see that the board is misguided in solidifying its title as the largest landlord in Fairfax County and there is open talk about a Meals Tax as well. We have much work to do, but together we can bring about the incremental change necessary to strengthen our communities without burdening the taxpayer in the process.



*Supervisor Herrity reads Dr. Seuss to students at local elementary schools, including Union Mill and Greenbriar, on "Read Across America Day"*

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## More Problems with the Penny Special Edition: Budget Markup

As I have detailed in past newsletters, the Penny for Affordable Housing continues to be a program with serious issues. First we learn in a 2007 *Washington Post* article that the County is using tax payer dollars to subsidize housing for families with incomes well over \$200,000 a year. Then we reported to you in a previous *Herrity Report* that the Fairfax County Government is now the largest landlord in the County and the Affordable Housing Program has been expanded to serve people making above 120% of median income. Now based on answers I received on budget questions I posed to our County staff I have learned that the County has taken on over \$140 million in debt to support this program with a large portion of that debt being interest-only financing. It should be noted that this \$140 million worth of debt was not approved by the voters in a referendum and because this debt counts against our debt ratio it will have serious implications on our ability to use bond money for transportation, schools, and parks.

I have some serious problems with this debt which I outline below.

- The \$143 million borrowed for affordable housing is more than we have borrowed for transportation and parks combined since 2005.
- \$105 million of this debt is an interest-only one year loan. This is the same kind of loan that has turned the mortgage industry on its head.
- Over 50% of the "Penny for Affordable Housing" is going to debt service on the purchase of previously occupied units. This severely limits our ability to help those in need of affordable housing.
- What implications will the recent downturn in housing values and rents have on our ability to refinance this debt?
- The interest rate on these loans is worse than the County's AAA bond rate making them more expensive than our other debts.
- This debt was not put before the voters in a bond referendum.

*continued next page*

### More Problems with the Penny

*from page 9*

Unfortunately Chairman Connolly and the Board of Supervisors, with the exception of Supervisor Frey, continue to reaffirm support for this seriously flawed approach to solving what is a real problem in Fairfax County. Again, I want to be clear that the lack of affordable housing in Fairfax County is an issue that needs to be addressed. The problem I have is that we are trying to solve it by buying occupied residences which are costing us a great deal of money and debt capacity and not moving anyone off our affordable housing waiting list.

Unfortunately we have not heard the last of the problems with the Penny for Affordable Housing...

### More Budget and Tax Articles

[Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield) to view these articles

- **My Initial Thoughts on the FY 2009 Budget – Special Edition: FY 2009 Budget**
- **Fairfax County is County's Largest Landlord – Special Edition: FY 2009 Budget**



*Supervisor Herryty speaks with Christine Morin at South County Federation Meeting*

### Leading the Effort for a South County Middle School

March 2008 Edition

I have been working very hard over the last couple of months in coordination with the South County Middle School Solutions Group and other elected officials to build a South County Middle School (SCMS). South County is the fastest growing area of Fairfax County and the newly built high school (currently used as Secondary school) is already well beyond capacity. After the 2007 boundary study was completed, the Fairfax County School Board asked the community to be innovative and find alternative, outside the box funding solutions to build the school in a way that would not impact the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

I am pleased to announce that after a lot of hard work from community activists and elected officials, a private company has proposed a partnership that will contribute in excess of \$10 million towards the building of the SCMS and also provide other amenities to not only those residents in South County but the residents of Fairfax County as a whole. This innovative partnership to fund the school would involve the swapping of land in the immediate vicinity of the current secondary school and would allow the school system to save money and accelerate other projects in the CIP. Most importantly, if approved, it will get the middle school built in time to prevent another boundary study. It is very important for all to understand that this funding solution will not have any impact to funding levels for any other schools in Fairfax County on the CIP list. (See Superintendent Domenech quote in my WSHS article).

Other advantages to this innovative partnership include building a separate SCMS on a 16-18 acre parcel that sits adjacent to the South County Secondary School, allowing the schools to be built as a campus and to share fields. It also allows the Fairfax County Park Authority to receive land and funding that is more suitable to its needs in the South County area. Over 200 acres of land located northeast of Silverbrook Road was transferred as part of the second land transfer from the federal government to Fairfax County and later 116 acres were transferred by the Federal Government at no cost for middle and high school sites. This proposal will meet those needs and requirements of the land transfer by providing an elementary, middle and high school for the South County area.

# SCHOOLS

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A second public private partnership has also surfaced and is receiving a lot of initial support. If approved it could bring an additional \$10 million to the middle school in 2 years when the middle school project would be approved. It would also make the first phase of the planned Sportsplex a reality bringing more than a handful of desperately needed fields to South County, provide a site for large tournaments, and a benefit the residents of the county. I believe this proposal is complimentary to the initial public-private partnership and has a lot of merit and should be actively pursued and investigated.

In addition Delegate Dave Albo and Senator George Barker were able to secure an additional \$1.74 million in funding in the General Assembly session this year.

As you can imagine, a lot of hard work, countless hours and dedication is needed for a proposal such as this to become a reality. Many individuals in the community, including Christine Morin and others, have never given up on making certain this school is built. Many elected officials have also shown unwavering support for the construction of a middle school. Congressman Tom Davis, Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Delegate Dave Albo and School Board members Dan Stork and Liz Bradsher have been there supporting this effort every step of the way. There is still a lot of hard work to be done to make sure the middle school becomes a reality. I am proud to be an active member of the team of leaders that will get this accomplished.

## **Working for West Springfield High School Renovations**

**March 2008 Edition**

**R**ecently many constituents have emailed me with their concerns about the current condition of WSHS. As a 1978 graduate of WSHS and proud alum, I too am concerned about its current condition. In fact, I recently toured the school and was dismayed at what I witnessed while walking the halls. Broken windows and tiles, mold, leaking pipes, and an aging and dangerous electrical system are just a few of the many unacceptable conditions that I encountered during my tour. I also testified before the Fairfax County School Board at its Capital Improvement Program public hearings about WSHS's current state and advocating it to be put onto and moved up on the CIP. As you know WSHS was built in 1966 and has gone without any major renovations for almost 42 years while other newer schools have seen

such renovations in recent years. Liz Bradsher (your Springfield District School Board member) and I are committed to making certain that WSHS renovations occur as soon as possible. Thanks to the hard work of Liz Bradsher (and perhaps in a very small part due to my testimony) WSHS will be evaluated to be placed on the CIP and will be the subject of a special review in the next year.

I have heard from many of you regarding my proactive efforts to build the much needed South County Middle School and the potential financial impacts such a proposal may have on WSHS renovations and the CIP. I can assure you there will not be a negative impact. The funding for the SCMS will come from an innovative financing scheme through a public private partnership that involves a land swap in the immediate vicinity of South County. The public private partnership that built the South County Secondary School actually moved other school projects up on the CIP.

On December 2, 2003, School Superintendent Domenech stated "South County opened 3 years earlier and saved the school system \$25.5 million as a result of development proffers and reduced construction costs...Cost savings from the South County High School project enabled the school system to reduce its FY2005-2009 CIP total cost by \$14.8 million and moved up the other school projects. Project start dates have been moved up for the following schools Mosby Woods ES, Franklin Sherman ES, Woodburn ES, Sleepy Hollow ES, Freedom Hill ES, Great Falls ES, Vienna ES, Graham Road ES, Mount Eagle ES, and Edison HS. Project completion dates have been moved up for renovations at Hutchison, Wolftrap, Greenbriar West, and Navy Elementary Schools and at South lakes High School". The effort I am pushing for South County Middle School will actually benefit WSHS.

In closing, as your newly elected Springfield District Supervisor and a graduate of WSHS I remain committed to seeing that renovations are made at the high school as soon as possible. It is a little known fact that WSHS has graduated five of Fairfax County's current elected officials including Delegate Dave Albo, Clerk of the Circuit Court John Frey, Sheriff Stan Barry and Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh in addition to Supervisor Mike May in Prince William County. I am reaching out to these elected officials plus other community leaders that have graduated from this fine school in an effort to raise awareness, raise funds, and fix the problems.

# Progress on West Springfield High School Renovations

## May 2008 Edition

As many of you know and as I mentioned in my March 2008 edition of the Herrity Report, West Springfield High School is in need of some major repairs both internally and externally. I am pleased to announce that at a recent town hall meeting with more than 400 parents, students and teachers in attendance, a plan was introduced by FCPS leaders to address some of the problems at the school in the short term.

- The girls and boys bathrooms closest to the main gym have been renovated.
- Most of the major plumbing problems have been addressed.
- Plans are underway to replace the outdated piping throughout the school.
- The entire exterior surface will be painted (except the windows – see below). Some of this painting has been completed – including the rusty fences behind the school.
- A study is being conducted on replacing all of the single pane windows in the school this summer.
- Some carpeting throughout the school will be replaced.
- The West Springfield High School sign in front of the school has been repaired. A new sign will be installed over the summer.
- Some of the water fountains will be replaced.
- The lights on the main athletic field which currently sit atop wooden poles are currently under study and design to be replaced.
- The temporary trailers that have never been repaired or replaced will finally be replaced with newer trailers making for a much better teaching environment for students.
- The track which has large cracks on an uneven surface will finally be patched this summer making it more conducive for track meets and then will be completely replaced in 2009. Currently all track meets have been held on other area school tracks due to the unacceptable condition of the West Springfield track.

I am very pleased with these improvements, but much more work needs to be done including the complete renovation of West Springfield High School. The recent repairs are appreciated, but only a complete renovation

will ensure that our kids will continue to have a school that they can be proud of now and for many generations to come. Although the physical condition of the school has deteriorated, we should note that the students continue to perform at an extremely high level which is an incredible testament to the teachers and staff.

On June 4, I attended a meeting to begin organizing a group that will continue to find solutions to the many problems that exist at West Springfield High School. Working with this group, we will continue to be persistent until these problems/issues are resolved and West Springfield is placed on the CIP for a full renovation. School Board member, Liz Bradsher, Principal Wardinski, Delegate Dave Albo, and incoming and outgoing PTA Presidents Nancy Baldino and Leslie Carlin have been an incredible force behind the improvements that have been made, and together we will strive to make a difference for the community and our children. I encourage all parents in the West Springfield pyramid to get involved with this effort – please contact Christian Deschauer in my office if you need more information.

### More School Articles

[Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield)  
[to view these articles](#)

- **Working Towards West Springfield High School Renovation and South County Middle School Construction – January Edition**
- **Relief on the Way for Silverbrook ES – Laurel Hill ES Groundbreaking**

## OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

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### AGING IN PLACE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

MARCH 2008 EDITION

As the Board of Supervisor Chair for the Committee on Aging, I am happy to bring you a program on an important senior resource initiative called Aging In Place. This concept is about not having to move from your home in order to secure the necessary support services you need to continue to live in your home. Many communities across the United States are exploring ways to better serve seniors by developing plans that address their future needs. I have been meeting with the leaders of CFS-TIPS (*Clifton/Fairfax Station-Transition in Place Services*), an aging in place initiative right here in Springfield District. CFS-TIPS plans to help member senior citizens obtain services they need to remain in their homes, provide information on reliable contractors, and promote wellness and social and cultural activities that

are important to seniors. As Fairfax County's number of older citizens continues to grow, this type of initiative will be critical in aiding our communities.

### ENSURING RELIABLE ELECTRIC POWER IN 2011

JANUARY 2008 EDITION

On January 14, 2008, I testified before the State Corporation Commission in support for the 500kv Meadowbrook-Loudoun transmission line proposed by Dominion Virginia Power. The SCC's consultant concluded that rolling blackouts in Northern Virginia are possible as soon as 2011 without the transmission line. I, along with a number of citizens and businesses in this region, stepped forward to support the line which will ensure reliable energy needed to sustain Northern Virginia's economy and quality of life.



*Supervisor Herryty visits with Boy Scouts at the Merit Badge Jamboree in Annandale*

### REVITALIZING DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD – WORKING FOR AN ANCHOR TENANT

FEBRUARY 2008 EDITION

Supervisor Jeff McKay and I are leading an effort to bring a new anchor tenant to central Springfield that I believe will kick off the revitalization of the area. We have engaged our very supportive Congressional Delegation – Congressman Tom Davis and Jim Moran; three area Chambers of Commerce, The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, County Staff, and the private sector to promote the use of the GSA Warehouse Site as the home for the 6,200 employer Washington Headquarters Service. The site sits at a major transportation hub and maybe the single most important step in making central Springfield a vibrant commercial hub.

The Government Services Administration property near the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station will compete with one of two private Alexandria developments for the Washington Headquarters Services division of the Army.

The 6,200 jobs were originally planned for Fort Belvoir and its Environmental Proving Ground with 13,000 others in the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure determinations before planners realized the area's infrastructure could not handle the influx.

In April the Army will select one of the Alexandria developments—the Mark Center along the Interstate 395 and Seminary Road or the Victory Center along Eisenhower Avenue near the Van Dorn Metro Station—to compare with the GSA site before a final decision in June.

### PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEX OFFENDERS

MARCH 2008 EDITION

One item worth mentioning at this time is full and dedicated funding for the Protecting Children Against Sex Offenders Program (P'CASO). Since FY 2004, 6 Fairfax County Police Officers have been funded by ChildSafeNet via grant dollars received from a FY 2004 Congressional earmark obtained by Congressman Frank Wolf. These officers working with the P'CASO program have been responsible for detecting and apprehending predators who initiate inappropriate conversations with children online and then seek to meet them face-to-face. Officers dedicated to the P'CASO Program also monitor convicted sex offenders when they are released back into the community to ensure they abide by the terms of their release.

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*It is absolutely imperative that we do whatever it takes to fund this important program.*

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Unfortunately those grant dollars are no longer available to Fairfax County and now we must decide whether or not to fund the program ourselves or to let it die. It is absolutely imperative that we do whatever it takes to fund this important program. The number of known registered sex offenders in the County varies from 350-400 at any one time, with most classified as violent sex offenders. It should be noted that in 2005 the officers working the P'CASO Program found that 34.8 percent of known sex offenders in Fairfax County were not in compliance with registration requirements. Thanks to the P'CASO Program the department has been successful in reducing the out of compliance rate to 22 percent. We absolutely can not let the P'CASO Program die and I for one will be championing this cause. Supervisor Hyland has proposed a budget item to fully fund this program and I will be supporting his proposal.

# Addressing our Current Economic Challenges Should Be a Priority

May 2008 Edition

It is a long understood economic premise that for every dollar raised by our commercial tax base the cost of services is a fraction of the revenue it produces. The converse is true for our residential tax base, for every dollar in residential tax base the services required to serve it exceed the dollar. For over five years I have been inquiring as to the revenue and cost of services equation for the high density residential tax base in our County. At our second board meeting in January I introduced a motion to have the County Executive work with the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority to undertake an analysis of the current revenue/cost of services ratio for the residential, commercial and high density residential tax base. The Board voted to send this to the Economic Advisory Committee for further deliberation. Supervisor John Foust is the chair of this committee and I am the vice chair.

The Economic Advisory Committee was created in the early 1990s to assist the Board of Supervisors in dealing with the problems that arise in difficult economic times. Even though we are undoubtedly in difficult economic times no meeting of this very important committee has been scheduled. I have made multiple requests for a meeting to be scheduled. Following multiple phone calls to the Chair of the Committee, I sent a written request for a meeting on

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*I believe it is absolutely imperative that in these uncertain economic times we as a Board are doing everything we can to minimize the pain.*

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March 24 with a copy to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Despite continued requests for a meeting of the Economic Advisory Committee none have been scheduled. I believe it is absolutely imperative that in these uncertain economic times we as a Board are doing everything we can to minimize the pain. Economic Development, which if done correctly could ease the heavy burden currently placed upon our homeowners, does not appear to be a priority for some on the Board.

Since I have been unable to get the Board to hold an Economic Advisory Committee meeting I will be looking at alternative ways to engage our citizens on creative ways to address our current economic situation and study the impact on our commercial tax base. It is a shame that as our citizens are forced to closely examine their economic situations they can't count on the Board of Supervisors to do the same.



*Supervisor Herrity's West Springfield Government Center Office*

# “I Want to Receive the Herrity Report”

Communication is important to me. If you would like to keep up-to-date on what I am doing on behalf of the citizens of the Springfield District and Fairfax County, please consider subscribing to our monthly *Herrity Report*. You can subscribe by doing any of the following:

- (1) Send a message to [Springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov) with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.
- (2) Contact Christian Deschauer at [Christian.Deschauer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Christian.Deschauer@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-451-8873 and ask to be put on our mailing list.
- (3) Go to our website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield> and subscribe online.

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Supervisor Herrity bikes 15 miles from his home in Clifton to the West Springfield Government Office on “Bike To Work Day”

