



HERRITY REPORT



PAT HERRITY SPRINGFIELD SUPERVISOR

SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
6140 ROLLING ROAD, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22152

PHONE: 703-451-8873 FAX: 703-451-3047
EMAIL: SPRINGFIELD@FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV

April 2008 “A Month in Review”

- **Working to Bring Wi-Fi to the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and Cell Coverage to Clifton**
- **Mowing a Priority in the Springfield District**
- **Asking for Your Participation in the FY 2010 Budget Process**
- **Working for Renovations at West Springfield High School**
- **Increasing Pedestrian Safety in Fairfax County**
- **Commending the Friends of Little Rocky Run for a Potomac Watershed Cleanup**
- **Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Burke Volunteer Fire Department**
- **Nominating Two Outstanding Springfield District Residents for Lord and Lady Fairfax 2008**
- **Upcoming Events and Information Items**
 - **Brett Coffee Recognized as Volunteer Fairfax’s Community Champion for the Springfield District**
 - **Community and Recreational Services Award Winners**
 - **Meet with a Representative from the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority Close to Home!**
 - **VDOT Public Hearing Scheduled Regarding Rolling Road Widening Project**
 - **Transit Development Plan Meetings Set**

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

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.

Mowing a Priority in the Springfield District

It’s that time of year again--along with the increasing temperatures and spring showers, the grass on road medians and at intersections is growing. Over the past month or two, I have been working with VDOT to make mowing along roads in the Springfield District a major priority. As I write this, mowing along Rolling Road as well as other roads near the Fairfax County Government Center should have been completed. In the interest of driver safety and of keeping Springfield District looking as beautiful as it should, I will continue to press VDOT to ensure that medians and intersections of secondary roads throughout the district continue to be mowed throughout the season. VDOT has indicated to me that this is a priority for them as well and they plan on increasing the number of times they mow in the County. If you notice any sight distance issues caused by high grass along roads anywhere in Springfield District, please e-mail Peyton Onks of my staff at peyton.onks@fairfaxcounty.gov or call her at 703-451-8873; she will make sure it is immediately reported to VDOT for action.

Asking for Your Participation in the FY 2010 Budget Process

Now that the budget for FY 2009 has passed it is time to start looking towards FY 2010. The County has historically had a three month budget process that would last from February to April. With next year’s fiscal situation looking like it will be the worst we have seen in a long time there is no way we will be able to complete the budget process in three months. Therefore the Board has decided to start the budget process in

September of this year which should give us ample time to carefully look at each County agency and decide what we are doing that makes sense and what doesn't make sense. As we move through the summer and into the fall I urge you to get involved in next year's budget process. A lot of difficult decisions will have to be made but those decisions will be much easier if we can get more citizens participating in the process.

Personally I would like to start the FY 2010 budget process as soon as possible, so on in late June my Citizen's Budget Review Committee will be holding a meeting to recap the budget for FY 2009 and to start a discussion for FY 2010. This committee is open to anyone who is interested in Fairfax County's Budget. You don't need to have budget experience or be a financial wiz, we are just looking to put people together and open a dialogue on the way we spend money in Fairfax County. We will be announcing the date of that meeting shortly.

Working for Renovations at West Springfield High School

In the March *Herrity Report* I wrote to you about the current condition of West Springfield High School. Just to recap, WSHS is a great school with an impressive student body and an outstanding and hard working staff and principal but the building has not had a major renovation since it opened in 1966. Broken windows and tiles, mold, leaking pipes, and an aging and dangerous electrical system are just a few of the many unacceptable conditions that the school is currently dealing with. Since I first toured the school in February some of the smaller maintenance issues have been fixed. While this is a great start towards improving the physical condition of WSHS, the larger problems remain and will not be fixed until a major renovation is done to the building.

We recently conducted a second tour of the school for some of the County's elected officials who, like me, graduated from WSHS. Those elected officials are: Delegate Dave Albo, Clerk of the Circuit Court John Frey, and Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh (Sheriff Stan Barry was unable to make it due to a work emergency). I will continue to do everything I can to raise awareness about the current condition of WSHS and work to find a broad range of short term and long term solutions for improving the situation.

Increasing Pedestrian Safety in Fairfax County

At the April 28 Board Meeting, my fellow Board members and I formally endorsed a list of county-wide "Top Pedestrian Intersection Safety and Access Projects." I'm pleased to report that many of these projects are in the Springfield District and that they are not concentrated in one single area. Generally, each of these projects entails the addition or upgrade of crosswalks, pedestrian signals, curb ramps and necessary connections to nearby sidewalks and trails. Some of these projects had been approved previously, but their completion was contingent on an agreement that was approved along with the project list at the April 28 Board of Supervisors meeting. This agreement between the County and VDOT allows the County to administer the work required for the projects' completion.

The approved projects' locations and estimated construction dates are as follows:

Currently Under Construction / Complete by May 2008

Lee-Jackson Hwy. (Rt. 50) / Majestic Lane (Rt. 4840)

Lee-Jackson Hwy. (Rt. 50) / Stringfellow Road (Rt. 645)

Old Keene Mill Road (Rt. 644) / Shiplett Blvd. (Rt. 5236)

Old Keene Mill Road (Rt. 644) / Sydenstricker Road (Rt. 640)

Currently Scheduled for Construction by October 2008, but possibly slightly earlier

Centreville Road (Rt. 28) / Compton Road (Rt. 658) –partially in Sully District

Fairfax County Pkwy. (Rt. 7100) / Old Keene Mill Road (Rt. 644)

Lee Hwy. (Rt. 29) / Monument Drive (Rt. 6751)

Under consideration for Design / Construction

Fairfax County Pkwy. (Rt. 7100) / Hooes Road (Rt. 636) – separate bridge structural analysis required

Lee-Jackson Hwy. (Rt. 50) / Alder Woods Lane (Rt. 7201) –joint County/VDOT field review in summer 2008

Rolling Road (Rt. 638) / Burke Road (Rt. 653) –joint County/VDOT field review in summer 2008—partially in Braddock District

Commending the Friends of Little Rocky Run for a Potomac Watershed Cleanup

With much of the recent attention on our drinking water supply being contaminated by medicinal pills and chemicals, it has been easy to overlook the fact that these are not the only sources of contamination for our water. Trash, debris, and dumped household and commercial items can also have an adverse impact on our water. On April 5th 22 volunteers took the time out of their day to participate in the Friends of Little Rocky Run's annual "Alice Ferguson Potomac Watershed Cleanup" to clean up some of Springfield's watersheds.

The event took place at Willow Ponds Park, located at Rte. 29 and Stringfellow Road, and was the Friends of Little Rocky Run's largest clean-up to date. Over the course of three hours the volunteers picked up debris that has had a negative impact not only on the aesthetics of the land, but also on the quality of our water. At the end of the day the volunteers had managed to collect a massive total of 97 trash bags full of articles including car batteries, ceramic tiles, car tires and discarded axles.

Their work resulted in the removal of just under two tons worth of trash and goes to show what can be accomplished when citizens come together for a common cause and look to make changes that have a real impact on our everyday lives in Fairfax County.

Since 2001, the Friends of Little Rocky Run have been educating the community about the Little Rocky Run watershed, the environment as a whole, and encouraging the

appreciation of our natural resources in a safe, enjoyable, and responsible manner. In addition, they have picked up nearly 2000 bags of trash representing over 50 tons of debris being removed from the watershed. For this I would like to personally commend the members of the Friends of Little Rocky Run for their actions, and they will be invited to come before the Board of Supervisors in order to be thanked for their contribution to our community.

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Burke Volunteer Fire Department

At our Board meeting on April 28, I and the other Board members had the opportunity to recognize the members of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department and congratulate them on their 60th Anniversary. Back in 1948, the volunteer fire department, with only nine members, began operating out of the garage of the Burke General Store equipped with a 1932 Ford truck and pumper to serve the 240 families in the community. We have come a long way since then and the Burke Volunteer Fire Department has kept pace. They have continually demonstrated their commitment to our community numerous times, even supporting the rebuilding of a new station after the 1997 fire and helping to replace the damaged apparatus. I commend the volunteer members and the County's Fire and Rescue Department for meeting the demands of the ever-changing and diverse community in which we live. I want to thank them, also, on the occasion of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department's 60th Anniversary for keeping us safe and making our community and Fairfax County a better place to live.

Nominating Two Outstanding Springfield District Residents for Lord and Lady Fairfax 2008

Every year each member of the Board of Supervisors names two citizens from their district "Lord and Lady Fairfax." These two people are honored for their service and contribution to the county. This year I have nominated Rob Roberatory and Tracy Betts. Please allow me to introduce them to you.

Rob Roberatory: Over the years Rob has tirelessly contributed to the betterment of Fairfax County, and in particular has given back so much to the youth in the Springfield District. He is supported in his many community endeavors by his wonderful wife Paige, and his children Bailey and Lauren.

Rob has had a major positive input in the local school system. Nativity Elementary School has benefited from Rob's leadership as he helped introduce whiteboards, laptops, visual presenters, and other computer technology into their classrooms. Rob also helped found South County Middle School Solutions Group, he helped advocate for the community through the most recent boundary studies, and he served on the South County School Safety Committee. He has also served on the FCPS Projections Task Force and has helped FCPS improve their projection methodology. In addition, he has served as his community's Regional Affairs Chair for six years, and serves on to both the South County Federation and the South Springfield Alliance.

In a broader arena, Rob and his wife work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Project Starfish in Haiti, and are building a computer lab for a school in Belize.

Tracy Betts: Tracy has been a contributing member of our community for as long as I can remember. Her husband Mike and children, Taylor and Maya, support her and are her inspiration for working in the community.

Tracy has been and is still dedicated to the cause of improving the economic and social vitality of her community. For the past eight years she has served on the Board of Directors and is a past President of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. She currently chairs the Economic Development Committee for the Chamber, where she provides leadership on revitalization issues for community leaders, businesses, and residents alike. Tracy has long advocated for an economic development organization for Springfield and strives to create a collaborative environment where citizens, government, and business leaders can make this happen. She has also served on the Board of her Homeowners Association (Greentree Village). Furthermore, as an avid biker and member of The Bike Lane race team, Tracy enjoys volunteering as an advocate for the bicycling and trails community and teaching mountain biking clinics to women and girls.

Tracy is also one of the many brilliant business owners that help to keep Fairfax County prosperous and on the cutting edge of innovation and ideas. Tracy is the Founder and Co-owner of Balance Technology Group.

I am extremely proud to have such fine individuals here in the Springfield district.

Upcoming Events and Information Items

Brett Coffee Recognized as Volunteer Fairfax's Community Champion for the Springfield District

I want to congratulate Brett Coffee on winning this award, it is well deserved. Its people like Brett and his wife Lara who, through their behind the scenes hard work and dedication, make Fairfax County a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Here is what Volunteer Fairfax had to say about Brett as they honored him at the Community Champion's Breakfast:

“Brett's career of service has brought him to a variety of different organizations, but one thing has remained the same: Brett's commitment to developing the community around him through meaningful, lasting improvements. His Emerging Leaders class worked on a number of projects, but his team reviewed the feasibility of starting a new initiative on behalf of Alternative House. Now, as a board member of Leadership Fairfax, he is contributing to strategic planning and reorganization initiatives. As Springfield representative to the Citizen Corps Council, he is working hard with a variety of volunteer organizations that respond to emergency situations in Fairfax County and the region. Brett has been working

with the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce to strengthen that area's business community while it prepares for the BRAC transformation. Brett makes sure that the community as a whole remains engaged from his position as Secretary of the Springfield District Council, an umbrella group of over 200 civic and homeowner's associations. He is active in NVTC and other professional organizations, and has been recognized by his profession as one of the top young attorneys in the area and is General Counsel of a technology firm in Springfield. Working with his wife, this humble Rotarian helped found the SemperComm Foundation, an organization that provides free communication and entertainment equipment to our troops serving in remote locations. Through his dedication and service, he is truly able to serve as a Community Champion for Springfield and Fairfax County. "

Community and Recreational Services Award Winners

On April 19th Fairfax County's Department of Community and Recreational Services handed out awards to several members of our community. The awards were given to people who were recognized for providing excellent service to the young and old of the county.

I would like to personally recognize those from our Springfield District, and say thank you for your commitment to the betterment of our district and county.

Susan Choi, Helen Lewis, Parker Roach, and all those from the **Fairfax Master Gardeners Association** – Thank you for your hard work. You are all assets to the Springfield District and Fairfax County.

Meet with a Representative from the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority Close to Home!

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA, www.FairfaxCountyEDA.org) promotes Fairfax County as a business location, and offers a wide range of free and confidential services to entrepreneurs and to businesses of any size. An FCEDA representative now will be in Supervisor Herrity's office from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month starting May 13 to talk with Springfield District businesses. Appointments can also be made for June 10, July 8 and August 12.

Would you like to know how to start a business in Fairfax County? Do you need more office space, or would you like assistance in securing capital to help your company grow? Do you need access to other business services? For assistance with these and other business issues, contact Rodney Lusk of the FCEDA at 703-790-0600 or rlusk@fceda.org to schedule an appointment at the West Springfield Governmental Center.

VDOT Public Hearing Scheduled Regarding Rolling Road Widening Project

The Virginia Department of Transportation will be holding a Public Hearing regarding the proposal to widen Rolling Road between Old Keene Mill Road and the Fairfax County Parkway, June 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. at West Springfield High School. Staff from VDOT and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation will be present to answer any questions residents may have regarding this project. VDOT will be soliciting input from residents on the proposed plan—it has not been finalized. Citizens are welcome to stop by my West Springfield office to view the plans in advance of the meeting. Additionally, my office would be glad to coordinate with the VDOT Project Manager to have answered any questions you may have about this project in advance of the public hearing. Residents who cannot attend the hearing are encouraged to submit a comment form to VDOT via its web page for this project available at:

http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/rolling_road.asp

Transit Development Plan Meetings Set

Fairfax County is developing a comprehensive 10-year plan for bus service, including both Fairfax Connector and Metrobus, countywide. The County is seeking assistance from residents to help determine future service plans. Public Meetings are currently underway; the meeting regarding future Springfield and Braddock service is set for:

Tuesday June 3, 6:30-8:30 PM
West Springfield Government Center
6140 Rolling Road
Springfield

For more information on the Transit Development Plan, including how to submit comments, visit the web page available at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/tdp.htm>

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the *Herrity Report*, send a message to Springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov with **SUBSCRIBE** or **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject line.

*****Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call [Christian Deschauer](#), Supervisor Herrity's Senior Legislative Aide at 703-451-8873, TTY 411.