



# HERRITY REPORT



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## February 2008 “A Month in Review”

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### **Revitalizing Downtown Springfield – Working for an Anchor Tenant**

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.

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

I'm sure many Springfield District residents get as frustrated as I do each time I have to travel through 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>

## **Confusion Over Assessments**

I have been contacted by many constituents about the 2008 real estate assessments. Over the last week we have continued to search for an adequate explanation from the Department of Taxation as to why the value of land in our county has risen so dramatically. The explanations we were receiving from the Department of Taxation did not make sense to us when we compared it to the assessments in our district over the last couple of years. As it turns out, it wasn't just us.

I hope by now you have heard that the Department of Taxation has agreed to go back and recalculate the land/building allocation for the 2008 assessments. Please note that you do not have to file any paperwork to have your land/building assessment ratio reallocated. If you feel that your bottom line assessment is not in line with market data you still must file a formal appeal. You can get more information from the Department of Taxation by clicking on the following link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/>

I continue to have reservations about the process and methodology we use to assess real estate and I will continue to demand more information as to why this incident happened. I am also considering several actions that I believe the Board of Supervisors could take at our next meeting to ensure accurate assessments and to restore confidence in the process. Thank you for contacting me and please keep me informed of issues of importance to you.

## **Laurel Hill Elementary School Groundbreaking – Relief on the Way for Silverbrook ES**

On Saturday, February 23, I attended the groundbreaking ceremony for a new elementary school for the Laurel Hill area. This school is a much needed facility for this growing community and will provide much-needed relief for the overcrowded Silverbrook Elementary School. The new school, which has yet to be named, is scheduled to open for the 2009-2010 school year. The construction of this school would not be taking place were it not for the community activists and School Board members who made it happen.

This will be the second school to open in the rapidly growing South County area. Two down and one to go! I am actively working with Springfield District School Board Member Liz Bradsher and The South County Middle School Solutions Group on a creative solution to accelerate the construction of a middle school to relieve the overcrowding at South County Secondary School. I hope to have much more to report in the next newsletter.

## **Springfield District to Get New Synthetic Turf Field**

On Saturday, March 1, 2008 I attended the groundbreaking of a new synthetic turf field at Braddock Park in Clifton, VA. This event marked the first groundbreaking of the year for the Fairfax County Park Authority. Braddock Park is the third park in the Springfield District to get a turf field with South Run and Patriot Park getting fields last year.

As a youth coach I know our youth sports programs are absolutely critical to the County's youth – be it providing an alternative to gang activity, fighting obesity or its role in developing the character and leadership skills of our future workforce. We have a huge shortage of fields in Fairfax County, a problem I pledge to continue to address. This field is another step in that process as synthetic turf increases the use we can get out of the same land.

### **Two New Community Parking Districts in Springfield**

At the Board of Supervisors meeting of February 25, the Board passed a motion to create two Community Parking Districts (CPDs) in Springfield. CPDs are a way for neighborhoods to restrict boats, RVs, trailers, and certain large commercial vehicles from parking on state-owned roads within their communities. There is a petitioning process involved and is described in depth at the Fairfax County Department of Transportation Website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/rtap.htm#cpd>

If your community would like to pursue a CPD, have your homeowners or civic association leadership send a letter to my office outlining the road(s) on which you would like to establish the CPD. If you do not have an association, a letter signed by ten separate residences in the area to be affected by the proposed CPD is enough to “get the ball rolling” on this process. If you have any questions on CPDs, please call Peyton Onks of my staff at 703-451-8873.

### **Area Plan Review for BRAC Input**

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) is the process the U.S. Department of Defense uses to reorganize its military installations to adapt to changing circumstances. The 2005 BRAC will result in the transfer of 14,000 to 19,000 jobs to Fort Belvoir by September 15, 2011. Fairfax County is providing an opportunity for its citizens to participate in the land use planning process by submitting proposals to amend the area plan volumes of the *Comprehensive Plan* (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/comprehensiveplan>), the guide used by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to make land use decisions. The 2008 BRAC Area Plans Review (APR) process will focus on portions of Fairfax County's Lee, Mount Vernon and Springfield districts that may be impacted by the BRAC activities at Fort Belvoir. The Board has appointed a joint community task force to review the proposals. A community information session will be held to explain and answer questions about the BRAC APR process on March 10, 2008 at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria of Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. The *Guide to the 2008 BRAC Area Plans Review* ([http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/ap/brac/brac\\_apr\\_guide.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/ap/brac/brac_apr_guide.pdf)) outlines the process by which nominations to proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan are to be submitted for consideration and review. For further information, please contact Marlae Schnare in my office at 703-451-8873 or [marlae.schnare@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:marlae.schnare@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## **Herrity Celebrates the Lunar New Year at Fair Oaks Mall**

On February 9<sup>th</sup> I attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lunar New Year celebration at Fair Oaks Mall. I would like to thank the co-sponsors of the event, The Washington Hai Hua Community Center and Fair Oaks Mall, for inviting me and also for being such gracious hosts.

Happy Year of the Rat! [Click here to see Pat at the event.](#)

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/lunar\\_new\\_year.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/lunar_new_year.htm)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **Springfield District Tax Relief Workshop March 20<sup>th</sup>**

Looking for tax relief? Springfield District residents who are disabled or 65 years of age or older are invited to a workshop to help complete tax relief application forms. The workshop will be held on Thursday, March 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Springfield Governmental Center Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield.

Personnel from the Fairfax County's Department of Tax Administration will be present to help eligible residents apply for tax relief.

Older adults looking for more information about real estate tax relief can call the Department of Tax Administration at 703-222-8234, TTY 703-222-7594, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. More information is also available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/tax\\_relief.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/tax_relief.htm).

For more information please contact Christian Deschauer in my office at 703-451-8873, TTY 711.

### **Supervisor Herrity to Host Two Budget Town Hall Meetings**

I will be holding two budget town halls in late March to give you an opportunity to better understand how Fairfax County is spending your money and have your questions addressed. Representatives from the Department of Management and Budget will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. We will also have staff members from the County's Real Estate Assessment Division to answer any questions you have on your 2008 real estate assessment. I plan to attend both sessions as well.

<b>Budget Town Hall Meeting #1</b>	<b>Budget Town Hall Meeting #2</b>
<b>March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:30 PM</b>	<b>March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:30 PM</b>
<b>Fairfax County Government Center</b>	<b>West Springfield Government Center</b>
<b>Conf. Rooms 2 &amp; 3</b>	<b>Community Room</b>
<b>12000 Government Center Parkway</b>	<b>6140 Rolling Road</b>
<b>Fairfax, VA 22035</b>	<b>Springfield, VA 22152</b>

For more information please contact Christian Deschauer in my office at 703-451-8873, TTY 711.

**Fairfax County and Partners to Host “Reinventing Your Neighborhood: Creating Supportive Communities for All Ages”**

Since joining the Board on January 1, I have been given the honor of chairing the Board’s Committee on Aging.

From Boston to Berkeley, people 50 + are transforming their neighborhoods into the supportive communities they’ve always *wanted* and now, for a host of reasons, *require*. While no two are alike, most offer access to a range of services (from purchasing theater tickets to raking leaves) that make growing older in the ‘burbs a breeze. Best of all, these organizations build stronger, more engaged communities that work just as well for adults with disabilities, multi-tasking moms and teenagers looking for close-to-home volunteer experiences.

Fairfax County, AARP and community partners will spread the word about these promising organizations by sponsoring an event on **Saturday, April 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the Fairfax County Government Center. Virginia Governor Tim Kaine and Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald Connolly have been invited to open the morning event. Representatives from the pioneering Beacon Hill Village and six other organizations (including three local groups) will discuss how they organized their programs, the types of services they offer, and what it’s like to be part of a neighborhood service organization. *Join us to learn how to reinvent your neighborhood!!* For **free registration** call **703-324-7746 (TTY 703-449-1186)**, e-mail [April12@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:April12@fairfaxcounty.gov) (be sure to include your name, address, phone and e-mail) or register on-line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa/onlreg/reinvent](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa/onlreg/reinvent). For more information or to request ADA reasonable accommodations contact 703-324-7746 (TTY 703-449-1186). I hope to see you there.

## **2008 Potomac River Watershed Cleanup in Fairfax County**

The Fairfax Watershed Network is partnering with the Alice Ferguson foundation to coordinate the 2008 Potomac River Watershed Cleanup in Fairfax County. Many small neighborhood park and stream cleanups are being planned throughout the county. We are looking for volunteers to help pick up trash at these cleanups, but we are especially looking for people to establish their own neighborhood cleanups. This is a great opportunity for individuals and groups of any size. Most cleanups will be held on Saturday, April 5th, but cleanups can be organized in the weeks before and after those dates. Held annually since 1989, the Potomac River Watershed Cleanup has engaged over 35,000 volunteers and 250 partners, and removed more than 2.5 million pounds of trash from the Potomac Watershed. Cleanup locations are posted on the website. Registering a new cleanup can also be done on the website. If you need any help finding or registering a cleanup, please contact Dan Schwartz. Please also let my office know about your efforts and how we can support them.

### **Contact info:**

**E-mail:** [Dan.schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Dan.schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**Phone:** 703-324-1422

**Website:** [http://www.potomaccleanup.org/trash\\_initiative/trash\\_cleanup.html](http://www.potomaccleanup.org/trash_initiative/trash_cleanup.html)

### **Important Budget Dates (All of these are open to the public)**

- Feb. 25: County Executive Anthony H. Griffin presented his proposed fiscal plan to the Board of Supervisors
- March 8: Board of Supervisors budget workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center
- March 28: Board of Supervisors Budget Committee meeting at 1 p.m., Fairfax Co. Gov Center Conference Rooms 9 and 10.
- March 31: Public hearing at 7 p.m.
- April 1: School Board presentation at 6 p.m.
- April 1: Public hearing at 7 p.m.
- April 2: Public hearing at 7 p.m.
- April 18: Board of Supervisors Budget Committee meeting at 3 p.m., Fairfax Co. Gov Center Conference Rooms 9 and 10.
- April 21: Budget markup session at 10 a.m.
- April 28: Budget adoption during the regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting

Click on the following link for the County's budget documents:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>

## **Springfield District Constituent Services on Wheels**

A member of my staff will be at Pohick Regional Library on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 1 -3 PM to assist Springfield District residents with county matters. For more information please contact Peyton Onks of my staff at 703-451-8873.

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