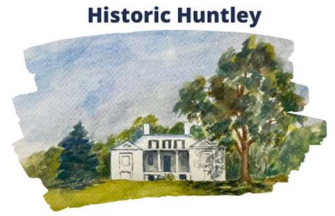




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Joint Board Matter

Franconia District Supervisor Rodney Lusk

and

Chairman Jeff McKay

March 21, 2023

Mr. Chairman – As you are aware more than any other member of this Board, the recreation and community center amenities along the Richmond Highway Corridor have traditionally struggled to keep pace with similar amenities in other parts of our county. A major step towards balancing those inequities was made in (2018?) when you facilitated the acquisition of the Mount Vernon Tennis and Racquet Club, which has since been redeveloped as the Hybla Valley Community Center.

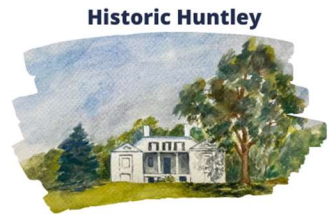
With the addition of this sorely needed facility, the Hybla Valley community is now one step closer to having equal and equitable access



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to the kinds of community center facilities that are common across Fairfax County. However, I believe that it is critical that we are not only providing access to amenities such as the new community center, but that those amenities be attractive, welcoming, and serve as a reflection of the community that they serve.

Unfortunately, this is not the case for the Hybla Valley Community Center. As you can see in the attached photo, the industrial butler buildings, and the plain and stark presentation of the main structure are neither welcome or attractive—and they are certainly not a reflection of the rich, vibrant and multi-cultural community that they serve.

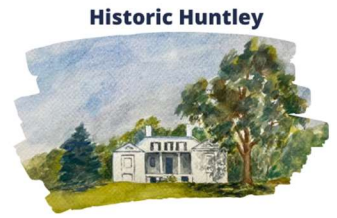
Fortunately, the flat, industrial, neutral veneer of the current structures also presents great opportunity.



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For the past two years the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) has been actively working to advance public arts projects along the Historic Richmond Highway Corridor. These efforts have been realized through one fully completed mural, and another that is moving towards delivery. It has also motivated development projects on the corridor, such as the South Alex project, to incorporate unique and creative mural elements into their building designs—laying the groundwork for what I hope will create an “art corridor” identity for Route One as redevelopment accelerates over the next decade.

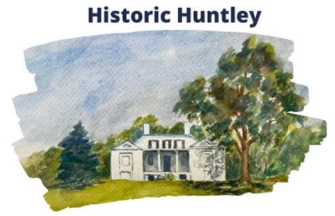
After consultation with SFDC, and discussing their willingness to partner with the County to engage the community, utilize the best practices they have already developed with other mural projects, and seek additional grant opportunities, I believe that the County should step forward to make an initial modest investment in re-skinning the Hybla



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Valley Community Center into a facility that is both visually welcoming, and also a reflection of the community that it serves.

With that objective in mind, Mr. Chairman, I move that the County Executive prepare a budget consideration item for review by this Board in the amount of \$25,000 as part of the FY2024 budget that would be designated for the commissioning of a mural on the Hybla Valley Community Center which would be facilitated in partnership with our offices, the Director of Neighborhood and Community Services, and SFDC.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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Historic Huntley



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