



## December 2010

### "A Month in Review"

#### **In This Issue:**

**[Christmas/Holiday Greeting](#)** - As we finish what has been another difficult year we should take time to be thankful for what we have. I hope that you and your loved ones have a Merry Christmas and the happiest of holidays. I wish you all the best in the New Year.

**[Board of Supervisors Goes on the Record Against Federal Insourcing](#)** - Last month, at my request, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors went on the record against the Department of Defense's stated goal to begin insourcing private sector contracts. This new policy could have a devastating impact on Northern Virginia's economy.

**[Update on the Potential Trash Incinerator Purchase](#)** - Since telling you last month about the potential purchase there has been a major development that further shows that buying the incinerator is a bad idea. The independent assessment of the value of the incinerator came back at \$418 million, almost \$200 million more than the County thought the incinerator was worth.

**[Underused Tysons Lunch Shuttle Will End](#)** - As *Herry Report* readers know, I first brought the low ridership of the Tysons Lunch shuttle to the attention of the Board back in February. I am pleased to report that the service will end and that the \$1.2 million used to run the shuttle annually will now be redirected to a more effective transportation program.

**[What to Expect from VDOT this Snow Season](#)** - Last week, Delegate Tim Hugo and I co-hosted a meeting with representatives from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to provide residents a chance to learn about what to expect from the state when snow falls.

**[Virginia Tech Remembrance License Plates](#)** - As a Virginia Tech graduate I want to

make you aware of the In Remembrance April 16 license plate in honor of those who died and those who survived the tragedy of April 16, 2007. The proceeds will go to the **VTV Family Outreach Foundation.**

### **Christmas/Holiday Greeting**

2010 has been another difficult year for our citizens, businesses and our county as we still find ourselves in uncertain economic times. However the holidays are a good time to take stock in what we do have. We are blessed to live in a county that has been largely sheltered from the economic crisis. We are also blessed to live in a great county with dedicated employees who are working hard to provide services to those who have been hit hardest by this economic crisis.

Times are still tough, no doubt, but I believe each and every one of us has something in our lives we can be thankful for. I hope during this holiday season you have a chance to take a moment and reflect on all the good things in your life.

I also hope during this holiday season we remember those among us who are most in need. For those who have the ability to do so, I hope that you take some time to give back to your community in any way that you can.

I want to thank *Herrity Report* readers for their attention and feedback throughout the year. I truly believe that getting feedback from you on the issues in the Report and other issues of importance to you helps me be a better public servant.

I hope that you and your loved ones have a Merry Christmas and the happiest of holidays. I wish you all the best in the New Year.

### **Board of Supervisors Goes on the Record Against Federal Insourcing**

Last month, at my request, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors went on the record against the Department of Defense's stated goal to begin insourcing private sector contracts. Insourcing is the conversion of work currently performed by private sector contractor firms to performance by federal government employees. This could have a devastating impact on our local economy. On my motion, the Board sent a letter to Senators Webb and Warner asking them to introduce an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, or other appropriate legislation, as soon as possible, to impose a moratorium on insourcing.

Federal contracting is the backbone of the Fairfax County economy. The federal government spends more than \$200 billion a year in private sector procurement. As reported by our Economic Development Authority, federal government contracts with Fairfax County companies reached \$39.8 billion (\$22.4 billion in defense agency work,

\$17.4 billion in civilian agency work) in fiscal year 2009, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Twenty-two Fairfax County-based businesses are on Washington Technology magazine's 2010 list of the 100 largest government contractors in the nation, and another 54 based elsewhere also have operations in the county. Government contractors are the largest employer in Fairfax County. In recent years, Fairfax County businesses have won more federal procurement dollars than the total in 47 states.

The Obama Administration has begun "insourcing" much of this work. Insourcing is the conversion of work currently performed by private sector contractor firms to performance by federal government employees. Defense Secretary Robert Gates plans to cut defense contract spending by 10 percent a year for each of the next three years. In addition, a Presidential commission on the federal deficit recommended further cuts in Defense spending, including those for contracting to the private sector, and more insourcing.

This insourcing is being done without objective criteria, without metrics for success and without any objective analysis of the cost or the benefits. Secretary Gates recently admitted, "We weren't seeing the savings we had hoped from insourcing."

This is a very real threat and a number of Fairfax County firms have already had contracts cancelled to insourcing, and employees lost to recruitment "poaching" by the Federal government.

The U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year approved an amendment to the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act that mandates that federal workers be considered first for all new work and for work that previously has been outsourced. All three members of the House representing Fairfax County voted against the amendment. Rep. Gerald Connolly called the provision "overly broad and very damaging to small and medium contractors."

According to Stephen Fuller, director for the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University, these moves would mean a loss of up to \$7 billion from the local economy. This would have a devastating impact on our citizens and our tax base.

A coalition of 36 national and regional organizations recently sent a letter to President Obama urging an immediate moratorium on insourcing. Among the groups signing the letter was the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Virginia Technology Council, and the Reston-based Business Coalition for Fair Competition.

I hope our Senators will act to protect the citizens of Northern Virginia. It is imperative to our region that the Senate take a position contrary to the House and that a moratorium on insourcing be enacted into law.

### **Update on the Potential Trash Incinerator Purchase**

Last month I told you that the County is evaluating whether or not to buy the privately owned and operated trash incinerator located in Lorton. I laid out the reasons I oppose this purchase in last month's *Herrity Report* which you can read here [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf\\_files/herrity\\_report/november\\_2010.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/herrity_report/november_2010.pdf).

Since writing that article there has been a major development that further shows that buying the incinerator is a bad idea. The independent assessment of the value of the incinerator came back at \$418 million, almost \$200 million more than the County thought the incinerator was worth. The Board of Supervisors will now have 90 days to decide whether or not to buy the plant.

When I first heard about this potential purchase I thought it was a bad deal for the taxpayers and after seeing the price tag I am further convinced the County should not make this purchase. We should not be spending our scarce capital dollars to buy a trash incinerator when we've got an arrangement that's been working for the well for the County and its citizens for the last 20 years. And we certainly should not be making the purchase when we have such enormous unfunded capital needs in schools and public safety, both of which are core functions of local government. I hope this recent development will convince the rest of the Board that is a bad idea. I will keep you updated as the process plays out over the next 90 days.

### **Underused Tysons Lunch Shuttle Will End**

The free Tysons Lunch shuttle will end later this month due to low ridership. As *Herrity Report* readers know I first brought the low ridership to the attention of the Board back in February. I raised the issue again in July when, after being in service for over 8 months, the shuttle was still averaging less than one rider per trip. I am pleased that the \$1.2 million used to run the shuttle annually will now be redirected to a more effective transportation program. The shuttle is something that we will eventually need in Tysons but it was implemented well before its time.

### **What to Expect from VDOT this Snow Season**

Last week (on the night before the first snow of the season), Delegate Tim Hugo and I co-hosted a meeting with representatives from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to provide residents a chance to learn about what to expect from the state when snow falls. VDOT shared a lot of great information on its service improvements planned for this season and an overview on how they respond to snow/ice events in our area. You'll find a list of changes VDOT has planned for this season below.

VDOT also has a new number to report road hazards and work/maintenance requests, or to ask road-related questions, 24/7 : 1-800-FOR-ROAD (1-800-367-7623) . You can also report maintenance issues or ask questions via e-mail at [novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov) . All inquiries will be routed to the appropriate Northern Virginia field offices for service. If you have a location in your neighborhood or commute that is a "hot spot" that may require extra attention or pre-treatment during ice or snow events, report it to the e-mail address above and please copy my office as well at [SpringfieldBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:SpringfieldBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov) .

Please contact the office if you have any comments or suggestions - 703-451-8873 or [SpringfieldBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:SpringfieldBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov)

#### **What you can do:**

- If possible move any of your vehicles from the roadway so the plows can plow curb to curb.
- Shovel to the right as you are coming out of your driveway so the snow is not pushed back into your driveway.
- Clear about 10 feet to the left of the driveway if possible so the snow is not pushed into your driveway.
- Clear the area in front of your mailbox or mail may not be delivered.

#### **VDOT Snow Removal Changes Fact Sheet:**

- **Early deployment to subdivision:** Salt/sand trucks will be pre-positioned in subdivisions whenever the forecast calls for two or more inches. Previously, trucks were deployed to subdivisions once two inches had already fallen. Each subdivision will have at least one dedicated truck, with the intent of assigning the same driver to that subdivision throughout the winter. In difficult subdivisions there will be more than one truck.
- **Additional equipment:** There are 600 additional contractor trucks this winter, bringing the total to 2,600 available for snow and ice removal
- **Dedicated fleet for Virginia State Police:** During major storms and ice events, VDOT is providing a dozen contracted trucks to Virginia State Police. This will help ensure that State Police has trucks to assist with specific emergencies and that VDOT crews can remain focused on their assigned routes.
- **Automatic Vehicle Locker (AVL) pilot program:** Contractors are being offered a \$1,000 bonus to equip their trucks with AVL, which will allow VDOT to track what streets have been plowed, when they were plowed and if they were

plowed. As of November, nearly 400 trucks have AVL.

- **Updated snowplow assignment maps:** Each of the 650 snow maps in Northern Virginia has been updated. These maps show hotspots, boundary lines, schools, police stations, hospitals and bus stops.
- **Training:** Additional snow plow simulator training has been provided.
- **Budget:** Last year's statewide budget was \$93.7 million; more than \$250 million was spent. This winter's statewide budget is \$115 million. In Northern Virginia, last winter's budget was \$27 million and \$127 million was spent. This winter's budget is \$33 million.

### **Virginia Tech Remembrance License Plates**

As a Virginia Tech graduate I want to make you aware of the In Remembrance April 16 license plate in honor of those who died and those who survived the tragedy of April 16, 2007. The proceeds will go to the **VTV Family Outreach Foundation**.

A minimum of 350 prepaid applications are required for the General Assembly to approve the designed plate. Once the Foundation has received orders for 1,000 plates, it will receive \$15 for every plate sold and renewed. DMV collects \$25 for non-personalized plates and \$35 for personalized plates. These funds will help the Foundation in its mission to promote and advocate for the public safety and security of our universities and colleges and to provide assistance and services to victims of campus crimes and their families.

Visit <http://vtvfoundation.wsiefusion.net/license-plates.html> for detailed instructions on how to obtain a license plate application.

### **Contact Information**

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