



Summer 2009

- **Progress on I-66 Short Term Solutions** – Thanks to Congressman Frank Wolf, we have made progress on opening the I-66 slip ramps and using the shoulder lanes for additional hours.
- **Addressing the Increased Threat of Lyme Disease** – At our last Board Meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved three of my recommendations to address this growing problem and its devastating impact on our citizens.
- **Opposing “Luxury Amenities” in Government Subsidized Housing** – I again voted against a government subsidized housing project that will include “luxury amenities” and where 50% of the units will be for those making over \$90K.
- **Bringing a Senior Center Without Walls to the Springfield District** – Working to bring cost effective services to our seniors.
- **“Sexting” Town Hall Meeting** – Town hall meeting hosted by myself, Delegate Dave Albo, and the Fairfax County Police Department raises awareness of the danger and serious consequences of “sexting”.
- **Expansion of the Islamic Saudi Academy** – My motion to deny the expansion due to the transportation issues was defeated.

Editors note: We had some trouble sending the last *Herrity Report Special Edition: Thoughts from the Board of Supervisors Retreat*. You can see it at this link:
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/herrity_report/Retreat_Edition.pdf

Continuing to push for short-term solutions to I-66 congestion

As *Herrity Report* readers are aware, I have been pushing for several short term solutions to I-66 congestion. These solutions include opening the slip ramps at Stringfellow and Monument and increasing the use of the shoulder lanes. As I noted in the May 2009 *Herrity Report*, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reviewed the request to

open the slip ramps to traffic outside of HOV hours and determined that a detailed Interchange Modification Report would be required—a lengthy and potentially expensive effort without guarantee of a successful outcome.

I approached Congressman Frank Wolf for help with the FHWA. Just over a week ago, Congressman Wolf contacted me to let me know the United States House of Representatives approved its annual Transportation Appropriations Bill. It included language that not only encourages the FHWA to collaborate with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to find solutions for improving the flow of traffic on I-66 outside the Beltway but also language the Congressman had proposed regarding both of the short-term proposals discussed above. It specifically requests both the FHWA and VDOT consider extending the hours of use of the shoulder lanes by one hour in each direction between the Beltway and Route 50 and recommends opening the two slip ramps to all traffic during non-HOV hours.

This is a good step forward on both of these initiatives. I am continuing the push for the Environmental Impact Statement for I-66, which is the first step in finding a long term solution. I will keep you informed as they move forward.

Addressing the Increased Threat of Lyme Disease

On July 22nd Supervisor Michael Frey and I held a town hall meeting to raise the level of awareness about Lyme disease. Over the last several weeks when I mentioned the town hall to people, the vast majority told me they either have been treated or know someone who has been treated for Lyme disease. More astounding to me were the number of cases that were initially misdiagnosed and mistreated.

While Fairfax County has undertaken efforts to educate our citizens and held managed deer hunts I believe there is much more we can and should be doing to protect our citizens from this horrible disease. On Monday August 3rd the Board unanimously approved three of my recommendations described below:

Directing our Health Department to increase their outreach and communications program to the medical community in order to raise the awareness of our doctors and medical professionals of the disease, the difficulty of its diagnosis, its treatment and its rise in prevalence. My wife had Lyme disease but was one of the lucky 65% that had the bull's eye rash and had it in an area it could be seen and therefore got prompt treatment. The current blood tests to identify Lyme disease are unreliable. This makes diagnosis very difficult for doctors in many cases. Northern Virginia is currently on the frontier of new Lyme cases and is where the disease has spread most rapidly over the last couple of years. New medical guidance on Lyme disease is expected to be issued shortly and this will provide a great opportunity for this outreach.

Approve the pursuit of a pilot program for the 4 poster deer bait station in Fairfax County to reduce the number of ticks. I believe we have the opportunity to attack the root of the problem – ticks. Our new Wildlife Biologist, Vicki Monroe, has identified a

relatively new but successfully tested product developed by The American Lyme Disease Foundation called a “4 poster deer bait station”. The station baits deer, and when they lower their head to feed it covers their necks, ears, and head with a tickicide killing between 92% and 98% of ticks on the deer’s body. These stations cost approximately \$450 each and \$300 per year in supplies (corn and tickicide) to maintain excluding labor. A bait station can cover 50 acres.

I have been working with Vicki Monroe to see if we can get a pilot program for the 4 poster deer bait station in Fairfax County. Our Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority are very interested in the pilot program and NVRPA has agreed to do the monitoring of the 4 poster deer bait stations in their parks. A pilot program would also require the approval of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). They have conducted an initial review and are very receptive to the pilot program.

The Board approved the pursuit of a pilot program for the 4 poster deer bait station in Fairfax County to reduce the number of ticks. The use of the 4 poster deer bait station has been approved by the EPA and USDA. I believe it has the ability to significantly, safely and cost-effectively reduce the tick population in areas where deployed. It is not intended to replace our managed hunts.

Have the County Executive research the legislation recently passed in Connecticut to protect doctors treating Lyme disease for possible inclusion in our legislative package.

There are currently fears in the medical community of being sued over long term treatment for Lyme disease. Currently it is only recommended that 14 to 21 days of antibiotic treatment be given to people with confirmed Lyme disease. Often, in late diagnosis patients this is simply not enough. We should consider protecting our doctors when they choose long term antibiotic treatment for Lyme disease. Recently several states including Connecticut have passed laws that protect doctors who opt for longer treatment programs. The Board agreed to look at including this in our legislative package.

There is also action on the federal level - our own Congressman Frank Wolf has been a leader in addressing Lyme disease and has also been able to secure more funding towards Lyme disease reporting, research and study. His bipartisan bill which was just passed by the House increases the Centers for Disease Control budget by \$3.66 million specifically to address Lyme disease.

You can watch the video of our town hall meeting at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/supervisor_herrity.asx. If you would like more information on what we are doing to try and combat Lyme disease in Fairfax County, please contact John Nolan of my staff at 703-451-8873.

Opposing “Luxury Amenities” in Government Subsidized Housing

The Residences at the Government Center is a workforce housing project being built under a public-private partnership on Fairfax County owned property. I have long been a vocal opponent of this project for a number of reasons including the fact that there are

many rental units available at or below the subsidized rates meaning the government is subsidizing competition with the private sector.

This item came before the Board again on July 13th for another approval. When I read the Jones Lang LaSalle Market Study on the Residences at the Government Center and could not believe it – this is truly government run amok.

To quote from the Executive Summary:

“Jones Lang LaSalle determined that the Residences at the Government Center will fill an underserved niche within the Fairfax rental housing submarket: a high quality property with luxury amenities comparable to higher priced rental properties, while being priced at levels comparable to older properties with fewer amenities.”

“It is the opinion of Jones Lang LaSalle that the proposed development at the Government Center will be competitive with both comparable sets surveyed, as the pricing will be set below similar luxury properties, while providing superior amenities when compared to the similarly priced rental market”

Luxury in subsidized housing is way outside of the mission of the Housing Authority and our County Government and I for one will not support our taxpayer’s resources for it. I have a hard time believing that we are going to subsidize luxury in “affordable housing” to compete with the private sector when we have a \$315M projected 2011 shortfall.

In addition, just four short weeks ago we had a board retreat where we developed a consensus that we should be serving the lower end of the market and those truly in need. The Residences at the Government Center is a Fairfax County subsidized affordable housing development where over 50% of the units are at 90 to 100% AMI meaning over half of these units will go to household making \$90K or more. This is a far cry from the 30% of AMI we agreed was our priority at the Board Retreat.

Supervisors Frey and Cook joined me in opposing this poorly conceived project to build government housing with luxury amenities which is going to compete with the private sector.

Bringing a Senior Center to the Springfield District

On July 1 a pilot program for the Burke/Springfield Senior Center Without Walls began at the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church. The Center, a concept developed by County staff and citizens in the West Springfield and Burke communities, addresses the need for exercise and health literacy programs geared toward older adults. This concept was proposed by staff due to the absence of a senior center in the Springfield Magisterial District and that existing senior centers nearby were near or at capacity.

The goal of the Senior Center Without Walls is to develop a network of community-based organizations and individuals committed to sharing and developing resources to provide programming for older adults in the West Springfield and Burke communities

without a significant investment on the County's part. The Department of Community and Recreation Services in collaboration with other human service agencies is overseeing the development of this network. Eventually, this program will be self-sustaining and will operate without any county funding or staff resources. This is a model that could be used throughout the County to address the growing needs of seniors.

The pilot program which continues through August 19 was initiated to gauge the interest of older adults and community-based organizations in being part of the network in the West Springfield and Burke area. Many thanks to the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church the first organization to step forward to support the Center Without Walls. It is a two-hour program consisting of a health and wellness presentation followed by an hour of line dancing. Over 50 participants have enrolled in the line dancing class and I understand that a waiting list has been created. By all accounts this has been a success. This fall, staff will continue to work with a core group of community residents that will serve as the leadership of the Center Without Walls and begin the formal formation of the network. One wellness program will be also be offered while the network leadership develops.

If you are interested in learning more about this program and would like to participate or volunteer, please contact Marlae Schnare of my staff at 703-451-8873.

Sexting Town Hall Meeting

On May 13th Delegate Dave Albo, the Fairfax County Police Department and I hosted a town hall meeting at West Springfield High School on the dangers of the recent phenomenon of "sexting." The meeting was a huge success with approximately one hundred citizens in attendance for a presentation and discussion led by myself, various members of our police department, Delegate Dave Albo and Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh.

The meeting was attended by young and old, and I was impressed with the number of teenagers in attendance, as well as their questions which I hope have brought light upon the subject and the implications it can have on an individual's life.

"Sexting" is here, it's ruining lives, and it is up to both parents and children to deal with this problem. I think that education is the first step, and thanks to our police department many people have taken that first step.

I encourage all parents and teenagers to learn about the very real consequences of "sexting". Tips, things to look out for, and further information can be found on the Police Department's website here - <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/topics/042109.htm>

Expansion of the Islamic Saudi Academy

On August 3 the board approved the proposal by the Islamic Saudi Academy (ISA) to expand their school to 500 students on their Popes Head Road Campus in the protected Occoquan Watershed. I made a motion to deny this application based on the

transportation issues created by rural, shoulderless, hilly, winding, and narrow Popes Head Road – a road I occasionally travel on. My motion to deny the application failed 6-4. This was followed by a motion by Supervisor Hyland to approve the school which passed 6-4. I feel the majority overlooked the real issues, the transportation issues, of this application to the detriment of the residents and communities of Popes Head Road and the Springfield District.

While I was disappointed with the outcome, in working with the community, the ISA, and staff, we were able to secure a number of development conditions that will minimize some of the traffic and transportation issues. For example, the ISA agreed to put in a west-bound left turn lane into the school and also do traffic counts periodically to ensure that the approved number of vehicles going into and out of the site is not exceeded. We will continue to work with the surrounding communities, ISA and staff as they move forward with their site plan and subsequent construction to reduce the impact on Popes Head Road and the surrounding communities. If anyone has any questions about the application, please contact Marlae Schnare of my staff at 703-451-8873.

The ***Herrity Report*** is a monthly publication from the Office of Supervisor Pat Herrity to keep citizens informed on the issues facing Fairfax County. Communication is important to Supervisor Herrity and he encourages your feedback on the items in the ***Report*** or other issues that concern you. Past issues of the ***Herrity Report*** can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/herrity-report-newsletter.htm>. To sign up for the Herrity Report please go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield>. If you no longer wish to receive the ***Herrity Report***, please send an e-mail to springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov with “Unsubscribe” in the subject line.