



March 1, 2017

No Increase in Homeowner Tax Rate

At yesterday's Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board voted to advertise the tax rate at its current tax rate assuring there will be no real estate tax rate increase in the next budget.

Announcing the 2017 Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs

Connection Newspapers and I will be holding four teen job fairs this year beginning March 18th. The job fairs are open to all teens and young adults in Fairfax County looking for employment or wanting tips to build their resume. Businesses and volunteer organizations will be at the fairs advertising the positions they have available. There is no cost for job seekers or businesses. [Click here](#) or scroll down to register and for more information.

Transportation Update

There are many good transportation projects underway in the Springfield District. Please see below for an update.

Other Community Happenings

Please scroll down below to read about more initiatives in the community including:

- Join me at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter Building Dedication Ceremony in honor of Supervisor Mike Frey, Saturday, March 4 in Fairfax
- Unified Prevention Coalition's "Saturday Night in the Suburbs" Programs for parents in March
- Join me at the Thriving Family Summit, Saturday, March 11 in Centreville

- Reduced Cost Rabies Clinic: Sunday, March 12 at West Springfield Government Center
- Check out Fairfax County's website updates
- Join me at the 2017 K-12 STEM Symposium: Saturday, March 25 in Herndon
- Secure Document Shredding: Saturday, April 22 at West Springfield Government Center
- Join me at the 50+ Employment Expo: Thursday, May 11 in Fairfax

No Increase in the Real Estate Tax Rate

Yesterday, the Board of Supervisors approved advertising a flat tax rate which means there will be no increase in the tax rate for the FY 2018 budget. It was one of the more responsible budget proposals we have seen in many years. With a near flat tax bill for the average homeowner, this budget demonstrates that the Board of Supervisors got the message taxpayers sent when they overwhelmingly rejected the meals tax last November. After a 25% tax increase in the last 5 years, this budget is a good start at providing tax relief for our overburdened homeowners.

I look forward to a dialogue with residents and community groups over the next few weeks. As the budget develops further, I will be working to propose adjustments to the advertised budget to reduce spending in some areas and fund some priorities not met in the advertised budget and working to give our homeowners some relief. **I will host my annual Budget Town Hall on March 20th at 7 pm at the West Springfield Government Center (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152).**

Announcing the 2017 Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Resume Building Workshops

Connection Newspapers and I invite you to attend our 2017 Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Resume Building Workshops. These events will focus on student job seekers looking for full time employment, after-school employment, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, or volunteer experiences. It is open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment or wanting tips to build their resume. Businesses and organizations have the opportunity to showcase their companies, brand their business in the local community, and advertise the positions they have available. It does not cost to participate. [Click here](#) to register or for more information.

Supervisor Herrity and Connection Newspapers'
2017 Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs
and Resume Building Workshops



- Full time employment
- After-school employment
- Seasonal positions

- Internship opportunities
- Volunteer experiences
- and more!

Chantilly High School
Saturday, March 18

10 am to 12 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, and Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce

Oakton High School
Saturday, March 18

1 pm to 3 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Linda Smyth and Oakton HS Marketing Department

West Springfield High School
Saturday, April 1

12 pm to 2 pm

Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

South County Secondary School
Saturday, April 29

11 am to 1 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County Secondary School

To register as an employer or student, or for more information, please visit
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm

Transportation Update - Road Projects

Fairfax County Parkway: One of Fairfax County's "main streets," the entire corridor of the Fairfax County Parkway (including the Franconia-Springfield Parkway) runs approx. 31 miles from Route 7 to Route 1, and includes 83 intersections and 17 Interchanges. It is approximately 85% residential and 15% commercial/industrial. There are numerous projects planned or underway on the Fairfax County Parkway in the Springfield District including the following:

Fairfax County Parkway & Franconia-Springfield Parkway Studies: The Virginia and Fairfax County Departments of Transportation are working together on two studies of this corridor-one short term and one long term.

Short Term: VDOT is managing this project in coordination with FCDOT. They are looking at existing conditions to see what can be addressed short term (1-10 years). These recommendations can include turn lanes, better pedestrian paths, signage, pavement marking, ADA upgrades, signal timing, etc. Staff held a series of public meetings last summer and revised their draft in response to citizen comments and recommendations. Additional public meetings were held this past fall. VDOT is currently finalizing the study. Current draft short-term recommendations, including an interactive pdf corridor study map are available [here](#).

Long Term: As a result of my board approved request, this visioning study is being done to determine what the long term needs of the parkway and how we will meet them. It will evaluate the current comprehensive plan and determines what needs to be changed (i.e. adding or deleting an interchange). FCDOT is taking the lead on this project but is coordinating closely with VDOT. It was initiated this past summer. No public hearings have been scheduled yet.

Fairfax County Parkway additional lane SB Lee Highway to Braddock: The addition of an auxiliary lane on southbound Fairfax County Parkway between Lee Highway and Braddock Road is nearly complete. The project was delayed due to issues with the overhead signage but should be wrapped up soon.

Fairfax County Parkway Widening Project: Route 29 to Route 123: This project will widen Fairfax County Parkway from four lanes to six between Lee Highway and Ox Road. It will also include construction of a much-needed interchange at Popes Head Road and allow for construction of the future Shirley Gate Road extension. The Popes Head Road interchange options are being studied, with the public having opportunities to weigh in before the design is finalized. This project is funded through the land acquisition and utility relocation phase; construction has not yet been funded but funds have been identified.

Surveying should be completed this spring and a public information meeting will likely be held late this year or early next year. A design public hearing would take place in Fall of 2018 with right of way acquisition the following year. The VDOT webpage for this project is available [here](#).

I-66 Inside the Beltway: Work on the Express lanes project for I-66 inside the Beltway began this past August. Currently, only HOV2+ vehicles and some hybrid vehicles with solo drivers may utilize the road in the peak direction during rush hours. This project will establish HOT lanes in this corridor, but only in peak direction during rush hours matching the existing HOV hours outside the Beltway (5:30-9:30 am eastbound, 3-7 p.m. westbound). During these peak periods, all vehicles will need to have EZPass transponders to utilize the lanes. Vehicles with a single occupant will now have the option to access these lanes and will be charged a toll based on volume of traffic on road. HOV 2+ will be free although an EZPass Flex transponder will be needed. Once these Express lanes open, the Hybrid exemption will no longer apply on this stretch of I-66; if a hybrid driver is riding solo, they will have to pay a toll.

Unlike the other HOT/Express Lanes projects in the area, the Commonwealth of Virginia will own, operate and maintain the Express lanes on I-66 inside the Beltway. The toll revenue will also be controlled by the Commonwealth and will be used on multi-modal projects along the I-66 corridor. More information available [here](#).

I-66 Outside the Beltway: The first phase of the I-66 Express Lanes project outside the Beltway will run between the Beltway and University Blvd. in Gainesville. The project will provide three conventional lanes and two express lanes in each direction and will also include high frequency bus service and additional park and ride lots in the corridor. While the project does add lanes, it will still reserve space for a future Metro Orange Line Extension. When the Express lanes become operational, HOV-2 will change to HOV-3--likely in late 2020.

A design public hearing will be held in 2017 with construction starting later this year. The project is expected to open to traffic in late 2020. More information available [here](#).

Route 28 Widening between Prince William County Line and Route 29: The project consists of widening approximately 2.5 miles of Route 28 from four to six lanes, between the Prince William County line (the bridge over Bull Run) and Route 29. The project will include intersection improvements and pedestrian/bicycle facilities on both sides of the roadway and improvements to pedestrian/bicycle facilities at all intersections throughout the entire corridor. Fairfax County has initiated environmental investigations as part of the documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as geotechnical investigations. The county hopes to hold a public information meeting in the next few months.

Route 29 Widening (Legato Road to Shirley Gate Road): Construction is underway on a project to widen northbound Route 29 to three lanes from Legato Road to Shirley Gate Road. This project also adds a dedicated westbound right turn lane from Stevenson Drive to Waples Mill Road. Construction should be completed by the end of the year.

Route 29 Widening (Union Mill Road to Buckley's Gate Road): This project will complete the widening of Lee Highway from Fairfax City to Centreville from four to six lanes, eliminating the last bottleneck in this corridor. It will also include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

The Board of Supervisors included this in its Transportation Priorities Plan approved in 2014 and it is currently funded through the preliminary engineering phase.

Rolling Road Widening: The stretch of Rolling Road running from Viola St. to Old Keene Mill Road is 1.3 miles long and has been planned to be widened several times over the last 25+ years, each time having the funding pulled before construction. A project to widen this section of Rolling Road has been approved and funded at approximately \$36M. The project has been split into two phases:

Phase 1: Construction of an additional turn lane from northbound Rolling Road to westbound Old Keene Mill Road (construction should begin in mid-late 2017). [Click here](#) to view.

Phase 2: Widen from 2-4 lanes along the corridor, adding pedestrian and bike facilities (8'-10' trail one side, 5' sidewalk on the other) signal upgrades, and improvements to access management.

A public information meeting was held in June 2016 and VDOT and FCDOT staff also met with individual communities and businesses along the corridor to address their individual concerns. A design public hearing will be likely be held in late spring of this year. After land acquisition and utility relocation, construction would likely begin in early 2021.

Braddock Road at Ox Road Improvements: Work has wrapped up on the improvement project for the intersection of Braddock and Ox Roads. A second left turn lane has been added along both northbound and southbound Ox Road and extensive drainage and pedestrian improvements were also completed. New signal poles and streetlights were also installed as part of this project, the latter should be activated in the next two weeks.

Burke Road Curve Realignment: Design work is underway on the project to eliminate the hazardous curve on Burke Road between Aplomado Drive and Parakeet Drive. The storm drainage facilities in the vicinity of the curve will also be improved to minimize the flooding in this area. Included in the project is a sidewalk on one side of the road and asphalt, multi-use path on the other.

Transportation Update - Walkway/Trails Project

Center Road: *in design.* This project will add a five foot sidewalk with curb and gutter along the south side of Center Road from West Springfield High School to Garden Road. Also included are storm drainage improvements, as well as a retaining wall for a portion of the project. The road itself will be widened in two sections to provide for a minimum road width of 24 feet. Barring any delays (due to land acquisition or utility work), this project will likely start

construction late spring 2018.

Hunter Village Drive Shoulder: *construction to start soon.* This project will widen the shoulder of Hunter Village Drive and add pedestrian improvements from Old Keene Mill Road to Painted Daisy Drive. The plans have been approved and the project limits will soon be staked out. VDOT will be upgrading its traffic signal at the Hunter Village Drive/Old Keene Mill intersection during the construction phase of this project, which was designed to include accommodations for this signal improvement. A temporary pole will be installed in early May to allow for trail/shoulder-related work to begin in the vicinity; VDOT will be replacing the signal later in the season.

Old Keene Mill Road wide shoulder (ped/bikes): *Scoping.* In 2014 the Board of Supervisors approved a project to fund a wide shoulder to safely accommodate cyclists and pedestrians in the corridor between central Springfield to the Fairfax County Parkway.

Lee Chapel Rd. Walkway: *Finalizing design.* This project will add a sidewalk on the west side of Lee Chapel Road between Burke Lake Road and Britford Drive. A citizen information meeting was held in June 2016 and plans are being finalized. If there are no delays, this project will likely go to construction in early 2018. [Click here](#) for the project webpage.

Post Forest Dr. Walkway: *in design.* This project will add approximately 500 linear feet of sidewalk along the south side of Post Forest Drive from Legato Road to a point just west of Cedar Forest Drive.

Route 50 Trail: *in preliminary design.* This project will construct a five-foot concrete sidewalk along the south side of Route 50 and up the off ramp to West Ox Road from Fair Ridge Drive to West Ox Road terminating in the parking lot of Fairfax Towne Center

Fair Lakes Blvd. Walkway: *design to be completed soon.* This project will add approximately 1250 linear feet of sidewalk along the south side of Fair Lakes Boulevard between Stringfellow Road and the Fair Lakes Shopping Center. Barring any delays, construction could start in spring 2018.

Transportation Update - Bus Stop Improvements

Old Keene Mill Road (eastbound) at Greeley Blvd: *in design.* Includes bus shelter, curb & gutter, and sidewalk connection to existing ramp.

Old Keene Mill Road (westbound) at Ainsworth Ave: *in design.* Includes concrete loading pad, sidewalk, drainage improvements, and curb ramp along with associated grading.

Fairfax County Parkway (northbound) at Modisto Lane: *design complete; awaiting*

approval of countywide land use permit. Construction starts in late spring. Includes loading pad, curb ramp, and sidewalk.

Burke Road (westbound) at Old Burke Lake Rd: *in design.* Includes concrete loading pad, sidewalk, and drainage improvements with associated grading.

Other Community Happenings

- **Join me at the Animal Shelter Building Dedication Ceremony in honor of Supervisor Mike Frey; Saturday, March 4th, 1:00 pm, West Ox Road Animal Shelter:** Stop by on Saturday, March 4th for the 1 p.m. dedication ceremony and unveiling of the new building sign in honor of Supervisor Mike Frey. Help celebrate Supervisor Frey's many years of service to the community and his longstanding and continuing advocacy for animal well-being. Reception immediately following the ceremony in the animal shelter training room.
- **Unified Prevention Coalition's "Saturday Night in the Suburbs" Programs for Parents in March:** Want to know what really goes on with teens on Saturday nights? Then make plans to attend one of two "Saturday Night in the Suburbs" programs to be held in March -- at South Lakes High School on Wednesday, March 8 and at Westfield High School on Thursday, March 16. The program, developed by the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC), is open to only adults in the community and begins at 7 p.m. at each school. The program features a panel of high school seniors who talk openly about alcohol and drug use, teen parties, social media, parent supervision and enabling, and communication with parents. Middle school and high school parents are encouraged to attend. Exhibit tables with information and local resource materials will open at 6:30 p.m. at each event. For more information, visit www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org or www.facebook.com/unifiedpreventioncoalition.
- **Join me at the Thriving Family Summit, Saturday, March 11 from 12:30 pm to 6 pm, Korean Central Presbyterian Church, Centreville, VA:** Please join me at the Thriving Family Summit, a multi-church effort to partnership to develop resilient families and youth, and reduce the tragic trends of family breakdown, alcohol abuse, drug use and overdoses, anxiety, depression, and suicide plaguing our community. The Thriving Family Summit vision began with a tragic drug overdose and death of a local teenager and a local church offering to host her memorial service. In response, local church and Fairfax County leaders gathered together to identify some specific actions to deepen awareness of the growing teen trends of broken families, drug addiction, anxiety, depression, and suicide, and how to make resources better known and accessible. [Click here](#) to register to attend or learn more information.
- **Reduced Cost Rabies Clinic, Sunday, March 12, 12 pm to 2 pm at West Springfield Government Center:** Rabies is a deadly virus that infects animals and can be a risk to humans as well. The most commonly reported rabid animals here in Fairfax County include foxes, raccoons, skunks, and bats. Your pets are not automatically immune to this disease and must be vaccinated against it. Fairfax

County is providing reduced cost rabies clinics throughout the County, including at my office in West Springfield (6140 Rolling Rd, Springfield, VA 22152) on Sunday, March 12 from 12 pm to 2 pm. To view more dates or for more information, please [click here](#).

- **Comment on Fairfax County's website updates:** A new, modern resident-focused website is critical for Fairfax County Government's digital business and informational future. In order to serve our residents better our website needs to be more up-to-date, user centric with responsive design to view easily on all devices. I'm pleased to share that a draft new website is now available for your review and feedback. Four pages are available for your feedback through three surveys - a quick first impression survey, an in-depth detailed survey and a site map structure survey. To view the draft pages and to take one or all of the surveys, please visit: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/using/newwebsite. The surveys will be open until at least March 19. The goal is to launch a complete new website later this year.
- **Join me at the 2017 K-12 STEM Symposium, Saturday, March 25 in Herndon:** The K-12 STEM Symposium is a free and exciting all-day forum that equally engages children, parents, and teachers, coupled with corporate, government, academia and non-profit executives alike from the STEM fields. Each attendee will receive access to a Parent-STEM action plan geared towards nurturing a child's curiosity towards the STEM fields. Kids are welcome to attend all panel and keynote discussions. For more information, please visit <http://stemsymposium.com/>
- **Secure Document Shredding, Saturday, April 22 at West Springfield Government Center:** The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will be sponsoring one secure document shredding event in each supervisory district per calendar year. These events are only open to Fairfax County residents along with residents of the Towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton and the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. Documents from businesses will not be accepted. Shredding events start at 8 a.m. and conclude at 12 p.m. All cars must be in line by 12 p.m. These are drive-through events and residents will be asked to remain in their vehicles. For everyone's safety, you will not be able to stand by and watch your paper being shredded. For a complete schedule or more information, please [click here](#).
- **Join me at the 50+ Employment Expo, Thursday, May 11 at the Fair Oaks Marriott Hotel:** The Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA) will hold a 50+ Employment Expo for seniors 50+ in the Fairfax County community. The Expo will take place on May 11, 2017, 10 am - 2:00 pm at the Fair Oaks Marriott Hotel, 11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, Virginia. The Expo is FREE to all employers, community resources, and jobseekers. Employers and Community Resources need to pre-register prior to the Expo to reserve a table by [clicking here](#). No pre-registration for jobseekers required. For further information contact Micki Gordon at mgordon@AccessJCA.org or 703-652-1511.