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In this Edition

- **[Dynamic Use of Shoulder Lane to Ease I-66 Congestion Finally Becoming a Reality:](#)** Next week VDOT will open the first phase of the I-66 Active Traffic Management Project which will finally bring us the ability to use the shoulder lane during periods of congestion, something I have been pushing for since joining the Board. This use of existing infrastructure should bring some relief to the ever-present non-rush hour congestion on I-66.
- **[Important Community Meetings:](#)** As summer comes to a close there are a number of important community meetings scheduled where you may want to provide your input.

[FCPS Budget Task Force Public Meetings:](#) What started as a good idea has become a staff dominated exercise (more to come in the next Herry Report). The Task Force is holding a community information session on September 12th, full details below.

[Police Practices Review Commission Public Meeting:](#) The commission assigned with reviewing police practices would like to hear your opinions and experiences about FCPD at a public hearing on September 14th, full details are below.

Community meeting for the Burke Lake Golf Course Club House

Replacement and Driving Range Expansion project: On September 15th the Fairfax County Park Authority will be hosting an open house for interested citizens who would like to find out about its plans to improve Burke Lake Golf Course's driving range and club house. Full details below.

2015 Vendor Forum: Hosted in conjunction with the Fairfax County Small Business Commission, the Vendor Forum provides an intimate and interactive setting for suppliers to network, explore and learn about doing business with the county. This year's forum will be held on Thursday, Oct. 8th.

- **Events at the West Springfield Government Center:** The Fairfax County Department of Transportation will be hosting a citizens information meeting regarding the project to construct a walkway along Center Road (school-side) from West Springfield High School to Garden Road, interested parties are invited to attend, details below. There will also be a document shredding event and a prescription drug take back event, see below for full details.
- **For any Natives Out There - The Burke Lake Tour Boat Is Back In the Water:** After a 15 year hiatus, Fairfax County's most popular park has one of its popular attractions return - a boat tour of the 218 acre lake. Full details below.
- **Laid Off Defense Worker Assistance:** I recently met with staff in regards to this program, offered by SkillSource, that supports laid off or soon to be laid off defense workers and funds attendance to local educational institutions and programs to learn new skills and gain new certifications that enhances their job search. Full details below.

Dynamic Use of Shoulder Lane to Ease I-66 Congestion Finally Becoming a Reality

Next week VDOT plans to open the first phase of the I-66 Active Traffic Management Project (ATM) which will finally bring us the long sought after ability to use the shoulder lane as an extra driving lane during periods of non-peak I-66 congestion. This use of this existing infrastructure (the shoulder lane) should bring some short term relief to the ever present non-rush hour congestion on I-66. The

concept is simple - open the shoulder lane when traffic congestion forces speeds to drop to a point where it is safe to open the shoulder lane in order to get people moving again. When traffic is moving at speed, the breakdown lane is needed in case of emergencies and the shoulder lane will be closed. Currently the shoulder lanes are only open during certain posted times when VDOT knows there will be enough congestion to reduce the speed limits. The ATM project will provide other benefits, but the major one should be the ability to instantly add more roadway capacity and get people moving outside of the currently posted shoulder lane use hours.

I first started advocating for added use of the shoulder lane when I joined the Board in January of 2008 as constituents asked why we could not just change the old X's to green arrows and use the shoulder lane during periods of weekend congestion. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/i66_shoulder_hov_ramps.pdf. Over the next year, VDOT engineers studied the ability to use the shoulder lane but figured out that the congestion was not predictable enough to set regular additional shoulder lane hours on weekends and it would have to be done dynamically through the use of the X's. Unfortunately the price tag was \$6 to \$8 million to upgrade the then current X's to meet the federal standard and allow for the shoulder to be dynamically opened and closed. At the time VDOT did not have the funds to proceed with the project. Undeterred these two engineers, Hari Sripathi and Kamal Suliman identified a federal "Active Traffic Management" program that would provide funding for a project that would allow the dynamic use of the shoulder. After a long federal process we should see the first phase of the \$38M ATM project opening next week on I-66 outside the beltway.

In 2008, I laid out a 4 point plan to address short term solutions to reduce I-66 congestion while we worked forward a longer term solution. We were able to get additional posted hours approved for the shoulder lanes in 2008, in February, 2011 we were able to open the ramps at Stringfellow and Monument during non-HOV hours (at least in one direction), and very soon we will finally be able to use the existing shoulder lanes during period of congestion. Now, as I have said in my last Herrity Report, we need to expeditiously move forward with a longer term solution for I-66 congestion and turn dirt on an Express Lanes solution in 2017 to give commuters more transportation choices - HOV, express bus or tolled trip with guaranteed travel times, or a free car ride in regular lanes that are less congested due to the capacity added by the Express Lanes.

Important Community Meetings

As summer comes to a close there are a number of important community meetings scheduled where you may want to provide your input.

FCPS Budget Task Force Public Meetings

What started as a good idea has become a staff dominated exercise (more to come in the next Herrity Report). Most of the Task Force's work has been behind closed doors but the Task Force is holding a community information session this week, full details below.

September 12th
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Mount Vernon High School
8515 Old Mt Vernon Rd, Alexandria, VA, 22309

More information on the task force can be found here - <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017/taskforce/> and you can also submit comments online at this link - <https://fcps.uservoice.com/forums/302115-what-are-your-ideas-for-balancing-the-potential-1>

Police Practices Review Commission Public Meeting

Back in March, Chairman Bulova set up a commission to review the practices of the Fairfax County Police Department. The commission has been meeting monthly since March, and this month they will be hosting their second public hearing in South County. The public will have an opportunity to voice their opinions, concerns, and experiences to the commission at this meeting which will take place at 7:30pm on Monday, September 14, 2015 at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria.

For more information about the commission please see here - <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/>
To register in advance to speak visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/public.htm> or call 703-324-3151.

Community meeting for the Burke Lake Golf Course Club House Replacement and Driving Range Expansion project

There will be a community meeting for the Burke Lake Golf Course Club House Replacement and Driving Range Expansion project on September 15th at 6:30 pm at Sangster Elementary School, 7420 Reservation Drive, Springfield, VA 22153.

These badly needed improvements to the clubhouse and the driving range were approved by voters via bonds in 2008 and 2012 and will be undertaken by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

This informal open house will provide an opportunity to review and discuss concept design plans with staff. It will be followed by a formal staff presentation and Q&A.

For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

2015 Vendor Forum

Own a small business or looking to work with one? Then sign up for the 2015 Vendor Forum "Where Connections are Made"! The Vendor Forum is an annual event hosted by Fairfax County that provides a forum for small businesses to interact directly with county department representatives. Hosted in conjunction with the Fairfax County Small Business Commission, the Vendor Forum provides an intimate and interactive setting for suppliers to network, explore and learn about business in the county. Join us on Thursday, Oct. 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center. To learn more or register, visit online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpsm/vendorforum.

Events in the West Springfield Government Center

Community Meeting for Center Road Walkway

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation will be hosting a citizens information meeting regarding the project to construct a walkway along Center Road (school-side) from West Springfield High School to Garden Road. A five-foot wide concrete sidewalk is planned for this section of roadway to increase pedestrian safety. The meeting is set for **Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 pm**, in the West Springfield Government Center Community Room (located off of the Police Station Lobby) at 6140 Rolling Road in Springfield. Owners of affected properties and interested residents are invited to review and discuss the project with county staff.

Free Document Shredding Event for Fairfax County Residents

A document shredding event, free for Fairfax County residents will be hosted at the West Springfield Government Center (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield) on Saturday, September 19 from 8 a.m. to noon. Staff will accept up to five boxes of residential material of a sensitive nature (i.e. tax documents, financial records, etc.) per vehicle and the documents will be shredded on site.

For more information on the event, including what is/is not accepted, as well as future event locations visit:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/shredding.htm>

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Set for Saturday, September 26

Turn in your unused or expired medications for safe disposal on Saturday, September 26 at the West Springfield District Station (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield) between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information on this program, including other drop-off locations, visit:

http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

For any Natives Out There - The Burke Lake Tour Boat Is Back In the Water

From the Fairfax County Park Authority: "It was more than 15 years ago that tour boats guided guests around Burke Lake, a 218-acre body of water that offers wonderful opportunities for fishing. These guided tours allowed Fairfax County Park Authority staff to share with park patrons the beautiful shoreline, information about wildlife and native fauna, as well as panoramic vistas from the water. This weekend, the tours start anew!

On Saturday, September 5, 2015 tours will run from noon until 6 p.m. These 30-minute tours can accommodate 24 people and run at the top of every hour. The last run will be at 6 p.m. Visitors can purchase tickets at the Bait House. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children age 12 and under. Tours will run on weekends until the end of October. In the future, staff envisions chartered sunset tours, fishing charters as well as special request charters.

Burke Lake Park offers boating, rowboat rental, camping, a miniature train, a carousel, outdoor volleyball courts, open fields, an 18-hole par 3 golf course, a clubhouse with snack bar and driving range, disk golf, horseshoe pits, an ice cream

parlor, picnic areas with grills, three playgrounds, trails, an amphitheater, and miniature golf course. (Swimming, paddleboarding and windsurfing are prohibited.) The lake is owned by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), the surrounding park land comprising Burke Lake Park is owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA).

Burke Lake Park is located at 7315 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. For more information please call 703-323-6600 or visit:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/>.

Laid-Off Defense Worker Assistance

Recently I met with staff on a new initiative called the Defense Transition Assistance Program operated by the [SkillSource Group](#) in Vienna. It's targeted at civilian defense workers who have been laid off or who have received a lay-off notice. Simply put, this program supports and funds workers to attend local educational institutions to learn new skills and gain new certifications that enhances their job search. This initiative will pay for the new training costs and any books and materials.

The program's funding offers over 80 approved training providers that include Northern Virginia Community College, University of Fairfax, Virginia Tech, Stratford University, and George Mason University. The SkillSource Group also offers access to six one-stop employment centers with personalized assistance for help with resume writing, job counseling, and resource networking. For contact information you can visit their web site at www.defensetransition.org or email Outreach Specialist Tom Ruby at tom.ruby@myskillsource.org or cell at (703) 606-9008.

For northern Virginia defense contractors faced with the unhappy prospect of laying off workers, this no-cost program could help ease the anguish of both parties.

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