

# UPDATE FROM SUPERVISOR

## JEFFREY C. MCKAY

Vantage Homes Association

October 15, 2018



### ILLEGAL ROAD SIGNS

My initiative expanded the County's collection of illegal road signs in our areas such as Springfield and Richmond Highway. To date, over 20,000 illegal signs have been removed and more than \$117,500 in fines has been collected through this initiative.

See any in these areas?  
Call 703-324-SIGN (7446) to report a sign or get more information here:  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/signs/signremovalprogram.htm>

### Did You Know?

In FY2017, more than 23,000 residents used Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board resources to treat mental health, substance abuse, and/or developmental disability needs, and more than 5,800 used CSB emergency services.

**Budget:** On May 1, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted 8-2 in favor of the FY19 Budget, which sets the real estate tax rate at \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed value and increases funding for schools for the seventh consecutive year.

As our Board's Chairman of the Budget Committee, I was glad to present a budget that invests in our strong schools, safe streets, vital human service needs, and other programming.

The budget provides \$2.26 billion to FCPS and provides more than 52 percent of County General Fund revenues to the School System.

It also funds the third year of Diversion First, a collaborative effort that sends low risk offenders experiencing a mental health crisis to treatment instead of jail. Dollars are also directed to a gang prevention initiative and Opioid Task Force, as well as staffing for the future South County police station and animal shelter. This new station is critical to our area and will shorten response times for officers.

While the newly-adopted budget increases the tax rate by two pennies, it also reduced the real estate tax initially proposed by the county executive by one-half cent. This was done following three days of public hearings and months of community discussion. The Board also slightly increased the stormwater tax by one-quarter of one cent to meet our growing environmental needs.

Despite all of the good items funded in this budget, it was no doubt another tough budget cycle. We saw increasing needs, a disproportionate spike in real estate values in our lowest income neighborhoods, and largely unmet needs in federal and state support. This is not sustainable. We must now immediately turn our focus to FY2020 and the structural changes that are necessary to achieve our long-term goals. Such work will be done through a lines of business (LOBs) process, which reviews every function of all of our County agencies, and through work on our strategic plan.

**Growing Commercial Rates** Despite these trying economic times, our aggressive revitalization efforts have paid off. Commercial real estate values in Lee District have risen 11.3% in the last year, the second highest rise in the County. Looking long term, only Lee and Providence Districts have seen commercial assessments grow by more than \$1 billion over the last five years. This means that more revenue, not coming from residential real estate taxes, will be available to the County Budget to support important programs.

**Springfield Town Center:** After only being open for three years, Springfield Town Center is now worth almost half a billion dollars, making it the third most valuable property in Fairfax County, and has risen in value by 9.7% over the past year alone. It is a major shopping and dining destination, and a huge improvement for our area.

**Transportation Security Administration:** The federal government announced late last year that the new TSA headquarters would be located in Springfield, adjacent to the vacant GSA warehouse. This is a sure sign that our revitalization efforts are succeeding, and an indicator of the strong future of the Springfield area. I have been working with the agency for years hoping this day would come. TSA employees will be making use of our smart transit infrastructure and revitalized downtown, while Springfield benefits from the nearly 4,000 jobs being brought to the area. Work on the site has already begun. In addition, since most of the TSA employees live south of Springfield, they will reduce their commutes and get to work without adding to the congestion on I-395 northbound, reducing delays for the rest of us.

**One Fairfax:** Late last year, the Board of Supervisors and School Board adopted a resolution called One Fairfax, which directs the development of a racial and social equity policy to ensure all individuals in Fairfax have an opportunity to reach their highest level of personal achievement. This policy was created by a committee I serve on, the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team. This is a moral and economic issue where we can ensure equity is examined as a part of every decision the County makes. You can read the resolution online here: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2016/one-fairfax-resolution.pdf>. We are now working on policy implementation to ensure every child has a chance to succeed.

**Transportation:** Three projects -- two on Richmond Highway and one in Springfield -- were just awarded a combined \$402 million in state funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA). The County's bus rapid transit (BRT) project on Richmond Highway received \$250 million and the ongoing Richmond Highway widening and pedestrian improvement project received \$127 million. In Springfield, the County received \$25 million to help extend Frontier Drive. This work coincides with the recent announcement that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will be relocating its headquarters to the area and will also improve traffic flow around the Joe Alexander Transportation Center. All told, the \$402 million that Lee District received accounts for 76 percent of all the funds awarded to Fairfax County. This is a big win!

**Paving:** I am pleased to announce great progress has been made by VDOT in repaving Lee District's roads this year. Visit [www.virginiaroads.org](http://www.virginiaroads.org) and click on "Maps" to view the list of completed roads and scheduled roads, as well as for more information about which roads the state is responsible for maintaining. As a reminder, most roads in Fairfax County are owned and maintained by the state, not the County, but my office is always more than happy to help with any questions and concerns. We currently have over 44 miles of roads scheduled to be paved in Lee District alone. This is good news, but the state still has work to do. While 86 percent of Fairfax roads are in the "fair" or "better" condition, only 39 percent of secondary roads meet this goal.

**Public Safety:** We've taken major steps to improve our already-world class public safety system. In addition to adopting policies recommended by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, we conducted a police body-camera pilot program in the Mount Vernon, Mason, and Reston Police Stations. This work was just completed and we will soon hear the results and consider next steps. These efforts will continue to help us remain the safest jurisdiction of its size in the country. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors recently directed funds towards addressing the opioid crisis and gang prevention. Work is also underway to build a new South County Police Station, aimed at reducing operational strains and response times at our local existing stations.

**Environment:** Good environmental stewardship is a County priority. Recently, we adopted the county's first-ever Energy Strategy. In Lee District, we've completed a stream restoration, including planting hundreds of trees and shrubs, at Banks Park adjacent to Old Telegraph Road and the wetlands at Huntley Meadows Park are healthier than ever. Additionally, the Huntley Meadows Wetlands Restoration Project received the 2017 Governor's Environmental Excellence Gold Medal and was named the best restoration of a Virginia park by the Virginia Recreation and Park Society. We have master plan revisions underway for several of our parks, which will give the Park Authority a blueprint for how to best conserve and improve our playing fields, hiking trails, ecosystems and other amenities based on community input. We're also working to plan the long-term future of Lake Accotink, which is filling with sediment. Options on the table range from letting the lake fill in to completely dredging it. More information is available on the lake's website.



---

## Contact Us!

6121 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310

Phone: 703-971-6262

Email: [leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 am—5:00 pm

Website: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee) Facebook: Supervisor Jeff McKay Twitter: @JeffreyCMckay