



SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT GOVERNMENTAL CENTER  
6140 ROLLING ROAD, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22152

PHONE: 703-451-8873 FAX: 703-451-3047  
EMAIL: SPRINGFIELD@FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV

## May 2009 “A Month in Review”

- **Protecting the Right to Work in Fairfax County**
- **VDOT Paving Update**
- **Kicking Off Summer in the Springfield District**
- **Sexting Town Hall Meeting a Success**

**\*\*\*SPECIAL NOTE: Please join us for the Springfield District Summer Kickoff Concert and Father’s Day Celebration on Sunday, June 21, 7:00 PM at Burke Lake Park (More details below)**

### **Protecting the Right to Work in Fairfax County**

Last September I presented a Board Matter, *Economic Development as Board Priority* which was unanimously approved. The purpose of the Board Matter was to stress the importance of achieving a 25% commercial tax base in Fairfax County. As I stated in my September Board Matter, the higher the proportion of commercial tax base the lower the tax rate needs to be to fund a given level of services.

One of the big competitive advantages we have over other jurisdictions in attracting companies to Fairfax County is that Virginia is a Right to Work State. It has been a long standing policy of the Commonwealth of Virginia that “the right of persons to work shall not be denied or abridged on account of membership in any labor union or labor organization.” (Enacted 1947; amended 1970). Having spent many years in leadership roles in our local business community and as a businessman myself, I know that being in a Right to Work State is a very important component of their business model and one of the reasons many are located in Fairfax County and Virginia.

The Employee Free Choice Act, also known as Card Check, is legislation that jeopardizes this long standing policy in the Commonwealth of Virginia and most importantly in Fairfax County. Card Check will take away workers' rights and will remove a major plus for those businesses that are interested in relocating to Fairfax County when determining what localities are best suited for their workers. While I think this is a bad piece of legislation, I do support the right of workers to join a union under their own free will. The secret ballot has always been a very important part of elections in our country; to take that right away from workers would be a terrible mistake. Passage of Card Check legislation would remove one of the competitive advantages Fairfax County has when attempting to recruit and retain businesses. This will make it more difficult for us to continue to attract new businesses and reach our goal of a 25% commercial tax base. Our local business organizations are on record stating they expect that the Employee Free Choice Act will negatively impact our local business community.

At the March 9, 2009 Board of Supervisors meeting I made a motion to have the Board affirm its support of the Commonwealth as a Right to Work state and to have the Board send a letter to our congressional delegation reflecting our support. Unfortunately, the motion failed with only Supervisor Frey and I voting yes (newly elected Braddock District Supervisor John Cook had not yet been sworn into office).

I was surprised that during the debate some of my colleagues expressed their desire to see to see the Right to Work laws in Virginia abolished. I was even more astounded when another Board Member commented that they think that Virginia's Right to Work laws provides no competitive advantage in attracting businesses to Fairfax County. As someone who has been a leader in the business community for over 30 years I know firsthand how important Virginia's Right to Works laws are and the benefits Fairfax County has enjoyed by being in a Right to Work state. I am disappointed that my colleagues on the Board do not.

### **VDOT Paving Update**

As the amount of funds the state allots to maintenance of our roadways has continued to dwindle away, you have probably noticed that many roads in our area really aren't in the best condition and are continuing to deteriorate. In recent months, I have heard from many of you that your streets are in dire need of repairs and repaving. VDOT tells me that they will try their best to quickly address safety-related road issues like potholes, but we will have to wait much longer for complete repaving of our local roads. Even with a recent infusion of stimulus money for paving projects, repaving priority goes to interstates and primary roads first; this does not leave much money to trickle down for use on our secondary roads and even less for our residential streets (I was told not to expect anymore repaving on secondary roads for another two years). I know this is not the best news to hear but I do welcome your any information you may have regarding potholes or other safety-related complaints about roadways in the Springfield District--my office would be glad to work with VDOT to have them repaired.

### **Kicking Off Summer in the Springfield District**

The Springfield District Kickoff Summer Concert will be held at Burke Lake Park on **Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**. We invite families to come out and celebrate the start of summer and Father's Day with good music and quality family fun. This is the second year of the Springfield District Concerts at Burke Lake Park. Last year's inaugural concert in September was a huge success with over 300 people in attendance.

This year's concert will feature performances by two of the top bands in the area. Kicking off the show at 7:00 PM will be **Rocknoceros**, hands down the BEST children's show in town. At 8:00 PM **Jeff Watson and the Downtown Band** will take the stage to entertain the crowd with a mixture of 60s and 70s hits as well as some of their original music.

### **Sexting Town Hall Meeting**

On May 13 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." I am happy to report that the meeting was a huge success with approximately one hundred citizens in attendance to witness an excellent and extremely detailed presentation put forth by our police department.

The meeting was attended by young and old, and I was impressed with the amount of teens in attendance, as well as their excellent 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 in the hands of 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 would like to thank all of those in attendance, and all of those that helped to put the presentation together, specifically - Marc MacDonald, Fairfax County Police School Resource Officer; Laurie Nathan, Director of NetSmartz, a program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; Nick Boffi, Detective, Fairfax County Police Sexual Predator Enforcement and Detection Team, and Doug Coulter from our West Springfield Police Department who helped to coordinate the meeting between the police department and my office. Your genuine commitment to serve and protect is demonstrated not just when called out to duty, but also in situations like these where you are proactive and staying ahead of the problem. Thank you again.

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>