

Oral History Interview
Interviewee: Audrey Moore
Interviewer: Laura McDowall
Thursday May 19, 2005

LAURA MCDOWALL(LAURA): (Note: Begins at 0) Let me start, Audrey, by saying this is Laura McDowall. And today I'm interviewing Audrey Moore, who is former Annandale District Supervisor on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and subsequently was elected county wide to be chairman.

AUDREY MOORE (AUDREY): And I'm being interviewed by the former school board member of Annandale District in Fairfax County, and I was very proud to have her do that. She did a wonderful job.

LAURA: Thank you very much. You were saying that you came to Fairfax County from someplace else.

AUDREY: Yeah. I grew up in a little suburb of New York City, and at that time, and that was maybe 50, more than 60 years ago, it was quite a while, centuries ago. The area around New York City was far more congested, and there were far more many millions people living in it than are living there today. And so I knew what the impact was of having development in an area and how little open space there was because nobody thought about it. And so that influenced me when I came down here very much.

LAURA: What brought you to Fairfax County?

AUDREY: Well, I got married. I actually moved --

LAURA: Whither thou goest.

AUDREY: Yeah, that's right, that's right.

LAURA: But it wasn't long before you did get involved in land issues here. What was your start?

AUDREY: Let's see. We moved here in 1956, went about having children real quick, and we had three boys. And moved to a little old subdivision of tiny houses, Cape Cods, in a subdivision that had great big lots, an acre to two acres, because my husband was one of these that just had to be outdoors all the time. And it was a great place to be raising boys. And in the meantime, I'm looking around Fairfax County and noticing that there isn't any open space, not preserved, and that the subdivisions are going up any old place it seemed like, and the Beltway hadn't gotten built; it was just about to be built. And I got to thinking about that, and I had a special reason to be thinking about something else besides my family because it was a little slower. And just besides doing housework and taking care of kids, I liked to think about things, and I kept reading about the Washington Post really editorializing about those redwoods in California, and those people in California better do something about those redwoods. And in the meantime, I knew that the District had with (indiscernible)funds set aside thousand and

thousands and thousands and thousands of acres in Rock Creek Park, and Montgomery County they had already set aside something like 15,000 acres. And we had, I think, 200.

LAURA: For the entire Fairfax County?

AUDREY: For the entire Fairfax County. We had Burke Lake Park, and I didn't know it until the other day, I found out that Jerry Halpern, who is a developer of Tyson's Corner, read in the paper that the county was not going to be able to get Burke Lake Park because although the federal and state people had provided money, Fairfax County couldn't come up with \$38,000. And he had just, with his own hands and his own money, built a house in Spring Valley near, I guess, Edsall Park. And so he got upset about it, and his wife upset about it, and he called up the county and he told them that he would take a mortgage because he didn't have a mortgage on his house for \$38,000, which is what he had put into his house, so they could buy Burke Lake Park.

LAURA: And he would donate that.

AUDREY: That's right. And you know, nobody knows that today. When I learned about it the other day, I just about fell over because I was working with all these, quote, environmentalists and citizen activists.

LAURA: And you thought you knew the community that was concerned about open space.

AUDREY: Yeah, and nobody told me about that. I mean, I can't believe it.

LAURA: What a brave step.

AUDREY: Well, yeah, to have him do that. That was wonderful. He's a good investor in land and he owns most of Tyson's Corner, but God bless him, a very good person. And that was the situation because they didn't have anything. They had a bond referendum for \$5 million, and one of our local leaders, who had been a farmer, Martin Webb, father of John Webb, if you remember, had taken umbrage in that because they never had any way of compensating the farmers here tax wise, of relieving them of debt. And so the farmers were up in arms about all the new people coming in and driving their taxes up so they couldn't farm anymore. And the state in its wisdom did nothing about it. They did in Maryland, which is why they had a better shot at controlling development, and I'm talking about where you put it and how you put it. And it gave a break to the farmers, and they didn't do it over here for like 30 years after that, oh no, 20 years after that and part of the big problem that we had in Fairfax. So he was up in arms and he took out newspaper ads, and after the bond referendum passed despite him barely, why he went to court and held this thing up for five years. So by the time they got to spend any money, they didn't have any to be spent. So there was very little land. There was Eakin Park up near Prosperity, right, which was at the other end. And Lake Accotink had been given to the county because it was the old water supply for the city of Alexandria. And the city of Fairfax was putting its sewage into Accotink Creek, and that lake was thoroughly polluted and they couldn't use it anymore. So that's how we got the parks that we have. And other than that, we didn't have anything.

LAURA: The name of Webb sounds familiar because of a very large tract of land right here by the building.

AUDREY: Yes. Oh yes. Yeah. John Webb, which is son of Martin Webb, and a fella by the name of Wood, John Wood, who was very active in the city of Fairfax, were the trustees for property on both sides of the Beltway. The Beltway cuts right through it, as a matter of it, I have a feeling, but anyway, and where Fairfax is today. And they still had the land on the west side. They hadn't done anything with it. It was mostly flood plain --

LAURA: And again, Accotink Creek, the city of Fairfax was using.

AUDREY: Right. Of course, they were the owners of record, so they were on the deeds of stuff. But you could take a partial interest in these partnerships, be a limited partner, and your name doesn't show up anywhere. And as a matter of fact, before we got all finished with this, I found out that Abe Fortas was a limited partner in that property and very upset about the fact that it had become very controversial out here because he was scared to death, he knew that I had found out that he was a part of the partnership, and was going around and telling everybody. And one of his partners came to see me and to tell me, please cool it. And I said, I ain't going to cool it. Anyway, I was a housewife. I had never been involved in anything. My parents were very strong Republicans, if you could be a Republicans and also Canadian. They hadn't gotten their papers yet either, and because they had lived down in South America and then came back to New York because my father went in business there. And so if you can, I just thought people that went on the library board or the school board, or got involved in civic activities, we used to call them squares. Squares. I thought people were squares that did that kind of thing, and certainly I wasn't going to do it. I had something to do taking care of my kids. But then I got upset as we drove around on a Sunday afternoon, and I saw all these subdivisions going up. And they didn't seem to be doing anything about anything. We didn't have even have cluster in this county at the time. Rossier Paine, who was one of the four planners with the county, and he was a wonderful man.

LAURA: The county had four planners.

AUDREY: Well, four lead planners, and probably not very many more. And he was for real, and he knew planning. And he finally talked the Board into adopting what was known as a cluster ordinance, which is where the developers get to have more houses and have them closer together on the buildable land if they donate the flood plain to the County. And he finally got it through. Now in Fairfax, it has always been more generous to the developers than anywhere else because you get 100 percent for flood plain in this county and you don't most places because the developers save a lot of money, too, because they can put their houses closer together. They have less streets, sidewalks, and utilities to build.

LAURA: And that is so relevant in this county, which is in the Piedmont. Much of the county is very rolling, and there's a lot of streams.

AUDREY: Has a lot of flood plain. So developers basically would get to price as many houses per acre over here as they would get in Maryland. And Rossier Paine was also trying to convince the county not to run sewers all over the place, but to build up the areas so all the kids could go to one elementary school instead of four elementary schools, and you wouldn't have that huge expense.

LAURA: And also roads.

AUDREY: And busing. You go to other counties where they are controlling their development and making it go into areas, be compact, before they go into other areas, like Montgomery County. And you don't find the busing that you've got in Fairfax County. It's been very bad for the schoolchildren.

LAURA: And this is busing only for the purpose of getting children from their houses to the school.

AUDREY: That's right. Well, that's right. And also all these boundary shifts and everything like that, you don't find that going on in other places where they control the growth better, and you don't find the taxes going up quite as fast. But anyway, getting back to it. I got to know him, but in the meantime, I got really exercised about this thing. And they wouldn't stop editorializing about the redwoods, and nobody was doing anything around here. So I all of a sudden found out that the Webb Wood tract was scheduled to be, I can remember it. I went up to the county and asked them about this property because I heard that somebody wanted to do something with it. And I went into the public works department where all the engineers were who were building sewers and thought the county board and so on was just crazy. And I said, hey, tell me about it. He said, why, why are you interested in it? And I said, I'd like to see it be a park. And he said, hey, Joe, come over meet this funny lady. She thinks there ought to be a park where they're going to put the high rises. And I said, what? Oh, he said, they're going to put high rises there. That's already decided. And they may have a golf course on part of the flood plain. But it's a done deal, lady. It's done. It's over with. There's nothing else going to happen. And I said, oh, okay, and I went back home, and I thought about it. And my kids just loved to walk down in that woods. It was beautiful there.

LAURA: Your community above it was --

AUDREY: Yeah, but even more importantly I remembered Central Park in New York. We had Lake Accotink down at one of the end of the Accotink. We had, oh, that part up near Prosperity Park that was given to us by Mr. Eakin, Eakin Park today. And all you had to was buy some flood plain and you get this big hunk, and you had a big Central Park. And when someday this county is all high rises, which I'm sure it's going to end up being very much sooner than anybody thinks, there might be something there for people. So I thought that was kind of reasonable. So got in touch with the park authority and they said, well, don't you know? And I found out not only did they know, but they had already made an agreement to support the rezoning before the Board of Supervisors in exchange for a 50 foot easement through it, not a 50 foot, a 25 foot, a 20 foot easement through it so they could put a path so that people --

LAURA: Like a bike path.

AUDREY: Like a bike path from 236 --

LAURA: Like the Washington and Old Dominion bike path basically.

AUDREY: Yeah. So from Braddock Road to 236 was going to be this little path, and they thought they had gotten a great deal out of it. And knowing how things were in those days, this was before the federal people came in and indicted everybody, but they didn't indict all the

people on that board. They indicted all the people on the previous board, which included some people on this county board. So things were a little different in those days in Fairfax County in the 1960s. And so everybody thought I was kooky. Well, my maiden name was Campbell, and I'm Scotch, and I had a little time on my hands, although my kids would tell you I didn't have that much time, and I said, so the hell they say, you know? So I thought, well, so I began finding out where people were that were meeting, and at the time I was too terrified to speak at a meeting, so I got my friends' husbands to go because my own husband said darned if he was going to do it. So I was getting friends' husband to go to these meetings about the Webb Wood tract, and I'm calling up reporters and getting them to talking about the Webb Wood tract, and pretty soon there are articles in the paper that say something like these thousands of people that are concerned about the Webb Wood tract, and there were four housewives at that time. So somehow or other, I don't remember how it happened. First we got a hearing before the park authority, and then we got a hearing before the county board, and somebody gave me, or I found out you could buy a little booklet that some service club had put out that had PTAs and civic associations in Fairfax County. So I began calling up all the civic associations and saying, we need help in getting some land preserved. And they said, we need help; there ain't any land down here. I said, well, where do you want land? Well, dah, dah, dah; we're in support of that. I said, fine, let's add it to the list.

LAURA: And you developed a whole system of parks.

AUDREY: Actually that's right. There was a coalition of groups from north to south in Fairfax County, mostly clustered around the Beltway.

LAURA: Partly because the development had not happened in the far western part of the county at that point in time.

AUDREY: That's right.

LAURA: This was the '60s.

AUDREY: This was the '60s, and there were like less than 400,000 people here, and they were scattered mostly east of the Beltway, but some beyond the Beltway because the Beltway was under construction. So, oh my gosh, there were people that, the land where the golf course is now at Braddock and 236, Nottaway Park, two big parks in Mount Vernon, one that has the ice rink on it and the other one, the swimming pool and all that stuff. And most of the big land was all a part of this thing. So anyway, we kept chugging away, and some of my environmental friends that I had gotten to know thought I was kind of crazy because they were trying to get maybe \$5 million to go to a referendum.

LAURA: And you were talking about a county wide system.

AUDREY: And I'm talking about I don't know how much money.

LAURA: Well, the Webb Wood tract alone was huge.

AUDREY: Two point six, yeah. And so at the meantime, setting aside open space had suddenly become important nationally. And the federal government had set up an open space program, so you could get 75 percent federal money, and you could 15 percent, I think, state

money, and all you had to do was come up with your own little bit. So that seemed to me in saying to go ahead and do something about it. And so, in fact, that's where I learned to go out and speak. My husband used to drive me because he was so afraid I would crack up the car. And I'd stand up in front of people and I'd shake.

LAURA: When did you decide to go into elective office now that you've learned to speak?

AUDREY: Well, what happened is that we got the bond referendum passed two to one. Martin Webb came in with his campaign, and it didn't make a darn bit of difference because I was part of the speakers bureau. Nancy Brown and Bob Brown were the other half. They were to get the speakers, I was to get into the meetings, and I asked where most people were, and they said, back to school, but you can't get in. So everybody let us in. The thing passed two to one, and we had \$18 million, which was the figure that I pulled out of my hat.

LAURA: When somebody said, well, how much do you think you need.

AUDREY: Yeah, right. And it was the most I could think of. I tripled whatever they said and another half. Anyway, so at that point was when I really got to know Mr. Paine because I started going to board meetings and finding out what they were doing, and what they were doing was running sewers all over Fairfax County and destroying the water supply. They wanted to destroy the water supply; that was basically what they were doing. There wasn't a place in the county they didn't want to run a sewer line. As soon as you do that, the flood plain goes up 20, 30, 40 times in value because immediately that flood plain has a lot of value because a subdivision that goes on the adjacent land now gets full credit for the flood plain, for the houses that would go there. So it's worth a lot more money. As soon as you've got a sewer line you can put in --

LAURA: Yeah, you don't have to have the big septic system lot.

AUDREY: Yeah, with a one-acre minimum, then that was more or less a break on everything because not all the land worked. And we had very heavy clay soil, and so by running these sewer lines and by running them all over the place, all at one time, they were making a fiscal impossibility for the county to begin with because we couldn't provide the facilities all over the place.

LAURA: All the roads, all the schools.

AUDREY: Without going completely broke. You remember when you build two schools, instead of having one school where your kids can go to, you have to have twice as many teachers. You have to have twice as many principals.

LAURA: Twice as many principals, twice as many custodians, reading teachers.

AUDREY: That's right, police, fire, all of it. So it's sort of an expensive way to do it. It's like building a store system. Instead of building one store and building up a clientele there, you build eight stores scattered all over the place, just full of employees and everything else, and then you try to make a living out of it. No, it doesn't work. And so that was what was happening. And so I got pretty upset about all that, and I began joining Fairfax County citizens associations.

I became a very active member of the Federation of Citizen's Associations because I found out that the Federation, and the League of Women Voters, and the Northern Virginia Conservation Council jointly were the only groups that really got much into this kind of stuff to the board. So I joined all these groups and the Democratic Committee, but that was a little later. But I decided that if I could get these groups to say something and they all said something before that board, then it wasn't just me saying it, see? And in the meantime, Rossier Paine left the county.

LAURA: The planner.

AUDREY: The planner. And the reason he left the county was because the federal people came in, indicted everybody on the previous board, indicted all three planners who were with him, and he had thought that everybody was disagreeing with him on principle. When he realized that he was the only honest one there, only one that wasn't being indicted, and they send the others to jail, and they couldn't send all the supervisors to jail because they had to prove that the money crossed state lines, and the money didn't always cross state lines. And they sent the case out to a young prosecutor by the name of Bob Horan, who announced that corruption is a very difficult to prove in Fairfax County and he couldn't do it, so he wasn't going to bring charges. At any rate, Rossier Paine left the county and went into private practice, and I don't know where he is now. God bless him, he's a wonderful man. He taught me everything I know about planning. But anyway, what I found out was the Federation of the Citizen's Associations and the Northern Virginia Conservation Council was that they got up before the board, and board would sit there, mm hm, mm hm, thank you so much, mm hm, now let's vote. And that was it. They didn't pay any attention to them. So then I said, whoa, there's got to be a way, and obviously money is important in this, campaign contributions, because most people don't contribute to campaigns. If you want to put the finger on who's at fault, it's the voters and the people who live here who don't contribute to campaigns just a little bit, so they're getting a lot of money from a lot of people. And so I said it's the money on one side, it's the votes on the other. Who represents the votes? Well, what about these people that work on these Republican and Democratic committees? They must be the door knockers, okay? And I looked at the board, and there weren't any Republicans there. There was one, and the rest of them were all Democrat, and I thought, well, I didn't know any Democrats. The only people that lived where I lived were Republicans. And I didn't know what they stood for, but I'm going to call everyone I know to get on that Democrat committee and get to know all those guys. We were knocking on doors. So I did, and I turned out to be probably a bigger Democrat than anybody else today. And I met a whole lot of wonderful people and got to be friends with a whole lot of wonderful people, and convinced them of some of the things that I was saying. And they began sending it to the board. And that was when Jack Herrity left the Democrat Party because they were saying such Communist things, and he couldn't stand it, like don't have development out in the western part. Jack is a good friend of mine.

LAURA: We're going to get to that.

AUDREY: Oh, okay. But oh my God, you know. And the board members, they got mad. They got really mad. And they got really mad at me, but didn't change their minds. So I thought, well, I'll work for somebody, so I did work for somebody. I'm not going to say who it was. But I thought, I'll work for somebody, and he said all the right things. And so I'm out door knocking, vote for him, vote for him, vote for him, and when I door knocked, he did get the votes, and then he got, didn't get elected, but he did get put on the planning commission, and, oh

my god, the bullying he did on the planning commission was something awful. I mean, I said to myself, and I asked people to vote for him, oh. So I said, well, you know, they don't listen to the civic groups, and they're not paying attention to the people that knock on doors. So there's only one thing to do, and that's to run myself.

LAURA: And what year was that?

AUDREY: 1971. Actually I didn't even think of it. I was on the committee, and there was a wonderful lady on the committee by the name of Carolyn Moats, who is now a lawyer in Fairfax today. She still lives off 236, I think, in Little Run. And she was a really wonderful lady, and she was what you call one of Gus's girls (NOTE: This reference is at 0700). Gus Johnson was then the head of the 10th District in Virginia, and a very wonderful man. He and his wife Connie were trying to fight the 'burb machine over race, and it was a very, very, very important issue. Now in order to fight it, he needed money for his candidates. He was to field candidates going to the state level. He was trying to field going to Congress. He wasn't paying any attention to the county board whatsoever. Why would you do that except as to trying to change these things? So Carolyn was the one that talked me into running for office. She used to go the lunch bunch with Gus once a week and Jane Vitray, and she was thoroughly one of his girls, and he, don't misunderstand me, he was a wonderful man. He is a wonderful man. I think he's still alive living in Virginia with Connie. Anyway he did an awful lot of good, and they actually did make a difference, a tremendous difference. But in the meantime, the board in their wisdom had desired to have a referendum on building a trunk line sewer in the ongoing water shed, which would have taken the sewage out of the Occoquan that was then currently going in. But it would have allowed the back to back development out there that you've got today, and a run off coming off that development is almost as bad for the water supply as the sewage going in it. And so you basically were going to kill the water supply. And I couldn't believe my eyes, and I couldn't believe my ears. And they scheduled it. By that time they knew I was fighting them, and they had heard a lot about it over the years from the Federation, and the League of Women Voters, and the Conservation Council, and me, and God knows a cast of others because there were a lot of people by that time taking an interest. And so in 1970, they had to reauthorize all the bonds in Fairfax County for schools, and parks, and libraries, and hospitals, and the current sewer bonds because the interest rates had gone up so high that the constitution prohibited it without a referendum. And so they were going up on September 13th, which is the time when none of the citizen groups had gotten going. We're all back in, all like the loud people from me are busy putting our kids in school again, we're on vacations, we don't have time to get organized. And now they're going to put this wonderful thing on the ballot, and everybody's going to get out and fight to get school bonds, and park bonds, and library bonds reassessed. Okay. And they added this little \$10 million was to go to this water pollution thing, to build a trunk sewer out in the Occoquan watershed. So you had six bond referendums, five of them were wonderful. Most of the other one was wonderful because we needed to upgrade our facilities, our sewage facility. But the \$10 million wasn't wonderful at all. And by that time, a young fella on the Washington Post, Bill somebody or other, had managed to know this was going on, and I don't know how he could have helped but hearing all the yelping that was going on county board from our antics. And I got back. I decided on September 1st we needed to do something about this on the 13th. And in the meantime, the Federation, the League, everybody has taken a position against it. And to schedule it in September --

LAURA: When nobody's looking.

AUDREY: -- when nobody's looking, and all these good groups are out, and it'll just slip through. So this little guy, Bill, I was stirring up and down. And in the meantime, a friend of mine by the name of Nancy Brown, Nancy and I got to talking. We had gotten to know each other on the park bond thing, the referendum. And so I said, Nancy, there's only one thing we can do. I said, let's get a group of people, we know the people around the county who care about this. And let's get some signs saying, vote no sewer bonds, and put the Federation and the League of Women Voters and the Northern Virginia Conservation Council on the sign. And she said, well, aren't we going to ask them? I said, no, because they will do it. A lot of leaders on this thing wanted to be appointed to some board or commission, right, or they get nervous about things. And I said, they've all taken this action, and we're only reporting to the voters what is true, that they have taken this stand. So I said, let's go get these signs printed. So we got a friendly printer to print them, and they were like 80 or 90 poles, and we got stakes, and my god, we spent almost \$100.

LAURA: Out of your own pockets.

AUDREY: Out of our own pockets, and then we had a mimeograph machine someplace, and we ran off these little things explaining all about it, and put them in plastic bags, and stapled them to each one of these stakes with a sign saying, take one and put it back; we don't have enough. And the night before the election, we got, oh, about 10 people each to take about 10 signs and go put them up the next day.

LAURA: Near the polling.

AUDREY: Yeah, right at the polling. Of course, there weren't very many signs up. Vote yes bonds was up. And then our little sign, homemade with a little plastic thing on it. And when the voting came in, lo and behold, the people had voted for all the referendums except the sewer bond referendum, two to one, and they had voted against the sewer bond referendum two to one. Well, nobody knew me until then. You know how the Chamber of Commerce suddenly thought the Federation was very important to get to know them? _That's when they got to know them. They said, oh my god.

LAURA: Who is this Federation?

AUDREY: Yes, who is this Federation, these people that have all this power, see? And then they heard my name, of course. So it got back to some of the people that were giving Gus Johnson money to run these campaigns to try to get people in office who would treat black people fairly, that there was this hellion woman out in Fairfax, and her name was Audrey Moore, and he said, Carolyn Moats, oh my god. Carolyn Moats is going to run for office? I'll have her running for the board while I'm trying to raise money for these guys for federal and state campaigns. So Carolyn comes to me after she's gotten me all ginned up, and I'd had to fight with my husband, and he's finally agreed that it's okay for me to run. And I made up my mind to do it, and I'm doing all this stuff, and she's explained to me how to do it because she knew how to do it. I didn't know a thing about it. Carolyn comes to me and she says, Audrey, I can't run your campaign.

LAURA: Oh my goodness.

AUDREY: And I said, well, why not? Well, she said, because Gus says I can't. And he's found a young man to run, and he's going to run on a drug platform. And if he runs as a man on a drug platform, and you're running as this crazy lady --

LAURA: A woman on a water platform, save the trees.

AUDREY: Yeah, why, he's going to win. So I said, oh, well, I'm real sorry. But by that time, I was sort of ginned up about it, and I had sort of made up my mind. My husband had agreed to it. And my kids were all in school. And I thought if this as a part time job, ha ha. And my mother-in-law and her sister had said that the, the kids used to go to camp at Sherwood Forest, the folks that they owned, and they said, well, they'd take care of them during the week as long as they were in camp, and I could pick them up on the weekends. So I said, I'm going to start door knocking, and I went to see everybody on the Annandale Democrat committee and the people all knew me. they had never heard of this guy that was against drugs because Gus found him someplace. I'm sure he was a nice guy. And they knew me, so they were supporting me, and I went out door knocking one house to the next because if you don't have the money, I wasn't going to go to the people that had the land and ask them for campaign contributions, which is what I was told to do. So I knew I had a little foot power, and so that's what I did. And some kids decided to help me who were in high school making flats for the school play. So they made these made these flats with big trees on them saying, vote Audrey Moore, and they brought them over to me, and I said, put them up. And they went up, and everybody thought they were the silliest things they had ever seen, but I hear I got a lot of votes out of them. I don't know, I got elected. Well, I did elected, but then later on, Jean Packard got in the race because Gus found out that I was doing pretty well.

LAURA: In the same race. She was running against you?

AUDREY: That's what happened. What happened, it was a cruel thing what they did because they didn't want her to win, and they didn't want me to win. They wanted him to win. And people to know that a lot of times things happen that maybe you don't like, but there's a good side to the other side. I mean, obviously if all these people had been given him money for federal campaigns, for Congress, and gubernatorial campaigns, got cranked off because somebody on the Democrat committee was making big problems in the county on getting zonings granted, that wasn't going to help very much. And so Gus went to Hal Miller, who was the then Mason District supervisor, and Hal called me up one day. He said, well, I've invited you and Jean Packard to come in and meet with me. I really have something very important to say. I thought, I've never been called by a supervisor to come a meeting. I guess I'll go to the meeting. And I got there, and he said, well, he had thought it over, and he had been talking about Jean Packard running for office because she thought she would make a very good supervisor. And so what he was going to propose was that she be on the county board and that she agree to put me on the planning commission, and that everything would be hunky dory. I thought, no, I don't think so; I think I'll go ahead. And, of course, I felt bad because Jean was a friend of mine. And I also had gotten to know a little bit about politics and about how you get telephone numbers so that you call people back just before an election. They never did that with her. They never helped her make her street sheets. You know, in the days we had to make street sheets, she did it all by herself. And so they never really told her how to run. And when you do that, she knew to go to door because she knew I was doing it, and she knew that this other man

was doing, and she started doing it, and I'm sure she made a very favorable impression. But you can't just do that and win an election, especially if it's a primary in September. You've got to have your friends on the phone calling these people up. You've got to have people helping you get the phone numbers and calling them up before election and reminding them to vote for you. And she didn't do that, and so I won the election.

LAURA: And you were inaugurated in '72 or '71?

AUDREY: That was the [inaudible] (NOTE: This reference is at 1155) part of the election. The election against the man who was the incumbent went pretty easily because by that time I had door knocked the whole district. And I don't think he ever did that. I mean, they knew him. They may not have liked the rezonings happening, but they had met me.

LAURA: How many terms did you serve all together, both as Annandale and then as chairman?

AUDREY: Well, I served five terms because I was elected four terms to Annandale. And then in 1988, during all that time, Annandale had been growing very rapidly because there were sewer everywhere in the Annandale District, and 1975 the board redistricted, and that's another funny story because they were kind of angry at Jack and me. They were angry at Jack because he was going around saying he was a non-Republican. They knew he'd been on the Democrat committee all his life.

LAURA: But he was representing Springfield at that time.

AUDREY: He was representing Springfield. He won at the same time that I did. And he didn't agree with me on development issues. But Jack, we ended up agreeing with each other on a lot of government issues, like, well, never mind, I wouldn't even tell you.

LAURA: Well, I hear you all even went to the policeman's ball together.

AUDREY: Oh, we did. Never forget it as long as I live. I sat next to him on the board, and I told you Sam wouldn't go to the policeman's ball and the fireman's ball or any of those things. Well, his wife apparently wasn't going to do it either. She had five kids to raise, and she didn't want to do that. So Jack says to me, well, you want to go together? And I thought, well, I had never been to a formal dance with a long dress on without a man to escort me, so, of course, I'll go. Well, I don't think I'll ever recover. I don't know if Jack did or not, but he knew all the guys on the police force because he grew up here, and he knew everybody in the Commonwealth Attorney's Office because he'd gone to law school in Georgetown, and they all did, too, so they were all his buddies. And Jack, he's a real politician. He loves people. He loves to talk, chat, chat, chat, chat, chat, chat. So what a night. The policemen hadn't learned to have round tables. They had a big thing over, long big head table that was card tables put up on boxes with holes down there. And every time you leaned to the left, the table would lean this way, and every time you leaned to the right, the table would lean that way. So the only thing you could do, you're three feet apart from the person next to you is sat there and chew and look at people. It was really awful. Well anyway, so after that, we got to get off the podium and go down and sit at tables, and it was about 10 o'clock, and I thought, well, this is very nice; they've given all their awards out to the good policemen, and everybody's talked real nice, and now we can all go

home, right? So I go over to Jack and I say, Jack, you think it's about time to go home? Well, not quite yet, Audrey. I want to talk to a couple more people. I said, okay. So about 11:30, I say, Jack, I got to get up at 6 o'clock in the morning with my kids, right? Jack, don't you think it's about time to go home? Well, I just have one or two more people to speak to. By the time I got to talking to him about it, it's 1:30 in the morning, the cabs don't run at 1:30 in the morning at that time. And I wasn't going to call, wake up my husband and drag him out to get me. So I'm just dying, dying. In the meantime, Jack's over there talking to all these policemen and all these Commonwealth attorneys. And to make a long story short, about 5 o'clock in the morning, 5:30, we rolled out of there. And I said to myself on the way to myself, I didn't say anything to Jack because God knows he was just Jack being Jack. I said, I will never, never, never again go with anybody else to any policeman's ball or anything else, I don't care what I'm wearing or what it is, I'm going by myself so I can come home. And I'll tell you, I got home, got out of my dress, got into my casual clothes and fixed breakfast, and the day went from there. I'll never forget that as long as I live. Anyway, one of the more funny stories.

LAURA: The Occoquan watershed was also important because of a big lawsuit, a big case that came up a number of years after what you were telling us about it. You were chairman at that time.

AUDREY: I ran for office to try to do better planning in the county, which also meant preserving that water shed for the water supply. But it meant controlling the pattern of development. And also I advocated another system instead of zoning. I think zoning is the most terrible system that ever was invented for regulating land use because it's an invitation to the devil. I mean, it's not fair. It's not equitable. But one of the biggest concerns I had that the board heard about, I couldn't do anything about that. I introduced the system to the board, but they did it over in Montgomery County, Maryland after I was invited to a national conference. But I couldn't get the board interested, and John T. "Til" Hazel was one of the ones that called it a Communist plot, and it was actually a very equitable capitalist type of system. But anyway, the Occoquan was also very important to me, and the board kept hearing about it from me. And, of course, things would happen because they were affecting the water supply. The development that was occurring, they had package plans, and the little package plans didn't work when the thunderstorms came, and they didn't work very well anyway, and there was a lot of run off. I remember one time they were trying so hard to kill the algae that the water turned brown coming out of the pipes one day. I was up on Capitol Hill asking them to make the part of the Potomac where the Occoquan ran into it part of the District where these had these high requirements, and they're sitting saying, you mean you're asking us to do that so you can control your water supply, and I said, yes, that's why I'm asking you to do it because they'll have to upgrade the water treatment, and they'll have to protect that area. Well anyway, board got very sick and tired of hearing about it, but, yeah, I never let up on it. And some time or other, I succeeded in getting them, I think it was in 1979 or '80, in to at least having a study on what should be done with it. And the group that came back not only were convinced that another land use there, that instead of allowing one acre development, that they should only allow five acre development.

LAURA: This is west of 123.

AUDREY: West of 123. All the land that drains into the water supply, and they were very strong for it, and they talked the planning commission into it. And lo and behold, about that time the board was anxious to approve rezoning of one acre property west of Fair Oaks. Till has

wanted to get the property rezoned at Fair Oaks, Till Hazel. And the board wouldn't do it, and I was the, well, anyway. Anyway, he tried to stop the rezoning for that shopping center. That was what he was trying to do. And he was very upset when they allowed that shopping center because he wanted to build one at 29 and 66 or 29 and 50, I don't remember, anyway the intersection. And the board approved the rezoning, and I voted for it as a matter of fact. And I was the fifth vote. It was a 5 to 4 vote because he talked four members into voting against it. And so he bought up the property west of the shopping center and decided to make a big industrial park, which is where Fair Lakes is today. And the board became wildly enthusiastic about this proposal. And it was in the Occoquan watershed. And I was very much opposed to it because I knew that all this stuff was going into the water supply, and I thought it was a crazy place for development. Somehow I think somehow, and I don't remember quite how it worked out, or I do, but I think I won't say at this point. Somehow the board became convinced that, they would make people think that it was a better thing to do to up zone that Fair Lakes property if at the same time they down zoned the other property. And so that is what happened. I think they hoped they would lose it in court because that had happened before. they had not put the property fence up on cases, and the county had lost cases. It was not because we were wrong. It was because we didn't defend it because the board didn't want to defend it. And so they went ahead and there's many slip between a cup and lip. And we actually went to court on that relying on landowners. And the little attorneys who had been into court all those years to fight for rezoning when they had been the newest kid in the county attorney's office, and they had gotten beaten, their ears all back because they didn't have witnesses or anything to win cases. Somehow the citizens in Fairfax County, the Virginia, the League of Women Voters, the Federation, the Northern Virginia Conservation Council, and national and environmental groups, managed to convince the board to have the county attorneys on that case that were good. And they got on that case, and they worked themselves to death for a year and a half. They worked seven days a week. They worked 12 hours a day. I'm not kidding. And then we had a judge who I think the head judge didn't like women at the time very much or were just mad about them appointing this woman. And he gave her the case because he figured it would be the material for the case doesn't come in in little briefs. It comes in in great big trucks. He gave her the case, and she decided to do the best job she could. And she's now the head of the court of appeals in Virginia, a wonderful, wonderful lady. And she amazed all of us by ruling with the county. Now all the way through the case, she ruled with the developers on all of the motions coming up before her. She poured through hoops like you wouldn't believe it, but by the time she put us, what I didn't know is she had put us through so many hoops, that by the time --

LAURA: It built the case brick by brick.

AUDREY: It built the case to the point where nobody could appeal it. And we won the case. And so that's how it happened.

LAURA: You also had monitors in the courtroom day after day after day if I recall.

AUDREY: Well, I felt like it wouldn't help, especially to keep the supervisors, I wasn't trying to impress the judge because I didn't think that, they're not going to get impressed. And I really wasn't trying to impress the county attorneys because I knew that they were real dedicated. What I was trying to do was get the message back to the Board of Supervisors that they'd better not interfere. And the way to do that was to get people to sit in the courtroom because nobody

ever sits in a courtroom, and least of all in one of these boring cases. It goes on and on and on, and the lawyers argued with each other, so you want to box with both their ears.

LAURA: Very esoteric arguments.

AUDREY: Oh, oh, oh, oh. And, of course, there was no parking at the courthouse, and the judge had this tendency to call hearings and then cancel it if she had to go someplace. And so you'd finally get three people out of 40 that you called to go. Oh yeah, oh yeah, because I felt like if the citizens kept their presence in that courtroom, and it would get back to the supervisors if they were there, that would be, and this happened in an election year, 1983, that this case was going on, it would get back to the supervisors that there were citizens paying attention to this. They had never heard of that before. Remember in 13 years in office, I had learned something. I had bruises and stuff, but I had learned something. And I knew that they listened to people, and there was an election year, and that was going on, and so we won the case.

LAURA: And what a case. For what else would you like to be remembered, Audrey?

AUDREY: Well, we got a law through, supported by the Virginia Supreme Court unanimously, in 1991, that said that if there is too much traffic, despite the fact that the zoning allows office development, you can't develop the office unless you can figure out how to handle the traffic. That was a Virginia law. I don't think anybody really understood it. I didn't do a lot of publicizing on it because the county attorneys were scared to death that the judges would think that I was making politics out of it and get against it for that reason. But it passed unanimously. And that is there for this board or any other county to use that wants to patrol traffic better. Secondly, I'd like to get remembered because I tried to get another system of land use instituted here, and I did get it in other places in the country, where there's a more equitable way of regulating land use because until we have a fair way of treating property owners, not giving the world to this property owner and telling this one that you're going to take his land for park and not pay him anything, you're never going to get proper enforcement of that law anywhere because it's just too unfair.

LAURA: Just one little thing. I use the Audrey Moore Recreation Center several times a week. Tell me about the dedication of that center to your name.

AUDREY: Well, it meant a lot to me. It shouldn't have in one sense because I really was for, at the time that they built that center, I instead wanted them to buy more land.

LAURA: Instead of putting up a building.

AUDREY: Putting up the building, right. It wasn't I was against the building. It was the timing of it. So it's ironic that the building is named after me. But I got to invite people and an awful lot of people came who were friends of mine. And I had been out of office for quite a few years, so they didn't have to come. And it was one of the nicest things that ever happened, and it was sort of like going to your own funeral, but you're alive and you can enjoy it. The people came who were my good friends, and I just had the best time. It was very nice, but it's a very funny feeling, it's still a funny feeling, today. I always forget to call it the Audrey Moore Rec Center, and I call it --

LAURA: Well, I insist that they do when they want to call it, and that's on the Webb Wood tract. That was part of your very early history.

AUDREY: Which is now Wakefield Park.

LAURA: Right. Well, thank you for letting me talk to you about your history.

AUDREY: Well, thank you for listening.

(END OF INTERVIEW)