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**Thanks for Attending Taste of Braddock 2015!**

This year’s annual Taste of Braddock reception was a wonderful time for community members to come together to kick off the holiday season and share in some delicious food from Braddock District businesses. Thank you to all who attended!

We would like to extend a special thanks to all of the local restaurants that donated so many wonderful dishes. Your participation truly made for a wonderful event. Lastly, we would like to recognize the students from the Culinary Institute of Annandale High School, and their leader, Chef Christine

Gloninger, for all of their hard work and dedication throughout the entire evening. These outstanding students helped setup, serve, and cleanup after the event. They also donated dozens of freshly baked cookies. Thank you all for your generosity and we look forward to seeing you again next year!



Supervisor Cook has served on Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and lives in Kings Park with his wife and children.



make Taste of Braddock great year after year.

- Lebanese Bistro
- Spartan's Family Restaurant
- Chuy's
- Edible Arrangements
- Giardino Italian Restaurant
- Hunan West
- Milano's
- Chicken Palace

- Smith & Clarkson's Deli
- Austin Grill
- Wegmans
- Dunkin Donuts
- Dickey's Barbecue Pit
- Coyote Grill
- Kilroy's

## Would You Like to Subscribe to the Braddock Beacon?

Would you like to be added to the Braddock Beacon email list? If you are interested in receiving the Beacon electronically, along with the Cook Advisory and other updates from Supervisor Cook's office, please contact us at [braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov) and write "BEACON" in the subject line.

## Braddock Neighborhood News

Supervisor Cook hosts his monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16, which is available through most cable providers. Each month, Supervisor Cook invites guests to share pertinent and informative items with the viewers.

This month, a program that aired in November 2014 will be rerunning. Every November, we take time to recognize Caregiver Appreciation Month. It is a time to acknowledge the important role that family, friends and neighbors play in caring for the aging and people with disabilities. Donna Goldbranson, the Executive Director of SPARC, is joining Supervisor Cook this month, along with Stephanie Cervantes and Judy Seiff. Both Ms. Cervantes and Ms. Seiff are personal caregivers here in Fairfax County. The shows air throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 5:00 p.m.

## Supervisor Cook in the Community

**North Springfield Civic Association Meeting:** On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook spoke to the members of the North Springfield Civic Association and also presented them with a certificate to recognize their participation in the County's Neighborhood Speeding Initiative.

**Sierra Club's Solar Power Program Presentation:** On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook stopped by the Kings Park Library where a group from the Sierra Club was presenting a program on solar power and how Fairfax County Public Schools could benefit from its usage.



**Meeting with Senator Creigh Deeds & the members of the State Mental Health Subcommittee:** On November 12<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook met with Senator Creigh Deeds and members of the General Assembly, Joint Committee on Mental Health. Together they toured the new Merrifield facility of the Community Services Board and talked about issues affecting Fairfax County.

**Fairfax Corner Tree Lighting:** On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook helped Santa Claus light the Christmas tree in the Square of Fairfax Corner.

**Little River Glen's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Day:** On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook was pleased to attend and say a few words at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Day at Little River Glen on Olley Lane.

### **Spotsylvania VRE Station Ribbon Cutting**

**Ceremony:** On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook, in his role as Chairman of the VRE Board, participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Spotsylvania VRE Station.

### **Somerset South Homeowners**

#### **Association Annual Meeting:**

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the Somerset South Homeowners Association Annual Meeting at Olde Creek Elementary School and discussed issues affecting the neighborhood.

#### **Leadership Fairfax Government Day:**

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the Leadership Fairfax Government Day at the Government Center.



#### **Burke Centre Volunteer Reception:**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook stopped by the Woods Community Center to help thank residents at the Burke Centre Volunteer Reception.

## ***Land Use Update***

**Congregate Living Facility. (SE-2015-BR-015).** The application for a Special Exception filed by Suoliang “Leon” Xie for a congregate living facility at 4008 Taylor Drive remains under staff review and analysis. A public hearing before the Planning Commission currently scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> is being deferred again by Braddock Planning Commissioner Nell Hurley. No date has been set for a new public hearing at this time.

**Northern Virginia Training Center.** Seventeen applicants to purchase this property from the Commonwealth of Virginia presented their preliminary proposals for redevelopment to the State at the end of October and early November. Recently, the State asked applicants to submit their “best and final” proposal by January 7<sup>th</sup>. There is a desire by the Commonwealth to select and announce a purchaser in early February.

**Recently passed Zoning Ordinance Amendments.** At its meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Supervisors acted on several pending amendments to its current Zoning Ordinance:

- **ZO-15-451 - Donation Drop-Off Boxes**  
Adds regulations to designate donation drop-off boxes as a specific accessory use and establishes standards for placement and maintenance of such containers, including limitations on locations; number of containers per lot; dimensions of containers and restrictions on locations on-site and requirements for operator identification and contact information. Adopted November 17, 2015; Effective November 18, 2015.
- **ZO-15-452 - Alternative Lending Institutions**  
Defines and establishes alternative lending institutions, to include motor vehicle title lenders and

payday lenders, as a distinct land use in select commercial zoning districts with use limitations. Adopted November 17, 2015; Effective November 18, 2015.

- **ZO-15-453 - Noise Ordinance**

This Ordinance has repealed the existing Noise Ordinance, and repealed the Excessive Sound Generation in Residential Areas and Dwellings Ordinance, and replaced them with a new ordinance. These amendments become effective on February 17, 2016. Until that time, the existing Chapter 108 and Article 6 of Chapter 5 remain in effect. The delayed effective date provides time for staff training, the update of relevant County websites, and the preparation of information items to assist staff in understanding the new regulations. The Board also directed staff to monitor the effectiveness and impact of the new Noise Ordinance for an 18-month period after its enactment. The provided link will tell you what noises are now prohibited and when. This ordinance passed unanimously.

- **Dog Tethering Ordinance.** Tethering a dog for more than one cumulative hour during any 24-hour period, unless the dog is under the direct supervision and control of its owner or custodian, is now prohibited in Fairfax County. The Board of Supervisors has voted to amend the Fairfax County Code to incorporate the Code of Virginia's cruelty to animals provisions along with the tethering provision. According to the amendment: "It shall be unlawful for any person to tether a dog for more than one hour cumulatively within any 24 hour period, whether or not the tethered dog has been provided adequate space as defined in the Code of Virginia, § 3.2-6500, as amended, unless the dog is under the direct supervision and control of its owner or custodian."

The amendment is modeled after the City of Richmond's tethering ordinance, determined to be the best fit based on a survey of jurisdictions across Virginia, and endorsed as model legislation by the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies. Other cities and counties in Virginia that have enacted tethering legislation include the cities of Fairfax and Alexandria, and the counties of Arlington, Fauquier, Hampton and Suffolk. This ordinance passed by a 6-4 vote, with Supervisor Cook opposed.

## Public Hearing on Proposed Fairfax Water Rate Increases

**At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2015, the Fairfax Water Board of Directors will hold public hearings on the proposed revisions to the Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges and the 2016 Annual Budget.** The public hearings will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA. The proposed revisions include a change in the commodity charge from \$2.55 to \$2.68 per 1,000 gallons, effective with meter readings taken on or after April 1, 2016.

Rate increases are proposed in several areas that will affect most residents:

- Services Charges, billed quarterly, are proposed to rise from \$9.80 to \$10.10
- Commodity Charges are proposed to rise from \$2.55 to \$2.68 per 1,000 gallons of use
- Peak Use Charges are proposed to rise from \$3.55 to \$3.80

## Human Services Corner

As we celebrate the Winter Holidays and embrace the season of giving and generosity, I hope you will consider the numerous opportunities to give back to those in need. Churches and nonprofits all around our community are hosting holiday wish lists, food and toy drives, winter coat drives and various fundraisers. Also, if you are shopping online, consider shopping through <http://smile.amazon.com> and give back to one of the many charities.

Every little bit helps and there are so many ways and people to help. If you have a particular group you wish to help, look up your local nonprofits and see how you and your family can truly rejoice in the sentiment of the season.

### Avoiding Charity Scams & More

These days, charities use the phone, face-to-face contact, email, the Internet and mobile devices to solicit donations. Naturally, scammers use these same methods to take advantage of your goodwill. Regardless of how they reach you, avoid any charity or fundraiser that:

- Refuses to provide detailed information about its identity, mission, costs, and how the donation will be used.
- Won't provide proof that a contribution is tax deductible.
- Uses a name that closely resembles that of a better-known, reputable organization.
- Thanks you for a pledge you don't remember making.
- Uses high-pressure tactics like trying to get you to donate immediately.

### Community Events throughout December

**Aging in Place, Dec. 16:** The holiday gathering will include conversations discussing upcoming 2016 presentations, and will provide time to share interests and hobbies with others. Light refreshments will be provided. Aging in Place is held at 9002 Burke Lake Road at 1:00 p.m.

**Where to Turn for Support Services, Dec. 16:** A multitude of services are available right here in Fairfax County from help with choosing a nursing home to advice on transportation options. A panel discussion will help you navigate your choices. This event is free and will be held at 1:30 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Dr., Fairfax. To RSVP, call 703-204-4664.



**Making Sense of TV, Dec. 17:** Remember when you just turned on your TV, picked a channel and then sat down for the evening? Clearly things have gotten complicated. To help you sort it all out, the Fairfax Department of Cable and Consumer Services is offering two free programs on Thursday, December 17th at the Fairfax County Government Center, conference Rooms 4/5.

**The first, *Internet TV and Reducing Your Cable Bill*,** will review new video services and their “enabling devices” including Apple TV, Amazon Fire Stick, etc. as well as tips on reducing your cable bill. The program is from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**The second program on *Tips for Buying a New TV***, begins at 1:30 p.m. and covers information on features such as high-definition digital and Smart TV. For reservations, call 703-324-5902.

**Tai Chi, Dec. 29:** Come experience the benefits of Tai Chi led by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. This event is free and runs from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. To register, call 703-249-1520.

**Holiday Concert, Dec. 30:** Come enjoy traditional Celtic music at this holiday concert. Refreshments served in the 18th century kitchen.

Limited seating. Admission is \$12 a person. The concert will be held at the Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly and will run from 2:00 until 3:00 p.m. To register, call 703-222-4664.

## ***Environmental Update***

The Fairfax County Park Authority has tons of Christmas-themed events scheduled in county parks throughout December. A full listing of events can be found by visiting <http://ow.ly/VVZPH>. Be sure to check it out!

### **Choose a “Green & Clean” Landscaping Company**

Do you hire a company to take care of your lawn and property? Landscaping companies registered with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation as "Green & Clean" agree to follow landscaping practices that will reduce the amount of fertilizer runoff into our streams and rivers. Such practices include testing the soil for nutrient content before applying any fertilizer, adhering to caps on the amount of nitrogen applied to grass throughout the year, sweeping up any fertilizer that lands on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways, and recycling grass clippings back into the soil. To learn more about the program and see the full list of companies on the Green & Clean registry visit <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/wqagree>.

### **Conservation Assistance Program: Need Funding for Your HOA’s Conservation Landscaping or Energy Efficiency Program?**

Want to do more on your civic association property? Is heavy runoff causing distress in your neighborhood association? Is your condo association paying exorbitant utility fees on leaky community-owned buildings? The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's new Conservation Assistance Program can help. It provides technical assistance and 50 percent matching funding for conservation landscaping practices or energy efficiency upgrades on community owned land or buildings. Energy efficiency projects can still apply for the fall 2015 funding round, with final applications due by January 31st. Conservation landscaping projects will be considered in the next round of funding, but feel free to get your applications in early. Learn how to get your application started at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/cap/>.

### **Crayola ColorCycle**

Have old markers that just aren't coloring? They don't need to go in the trash anymore, thanks to Crayola's ColorCycle program. Students in K-12 schools throughout the U.S. can send their used markers (they can be any brand) to Crayola for recycling. For more information, visit [www.crayola.com](http://www.crayola.com).

### **Free Water Quality Test Kits**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is distributing a limited number of water monitoring kits that can be used to test for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, and temperature. These kits are available for free to schools and organizations that do not have water monitoring equipment. DEQ requests that participants use these kits to participate in the World Water Monitoring Challenge: <http://www.monitorwater.org/>. The time frame for monitoring is March 22 (World Water Day) through December 31. To request a free kit, please contact Mr. Stuart Torbeck by e-mail at [charles.torbeck@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:charles.torbeck@deq.virginia.gov). Please provide your complete mailing address, the number of locations you plan to monitor, the expected number of participants at any one time, and the total number of participants from your organization or school that you expect to participate.

### **New Smart Phone App for Tree Identification**

Virginia Tech's Tree ID app contains fact sheets for 969 woody plants from all over North America with an in-depth description, range map and thousands of color images of leaves, flowers, fruit, twigs, bark and form. Users can narrow the species list for any location in North America using the phone's GPS, network signal or any entered address or zip code. The app is available for Android or iPhone and can be found by visiting <http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/>.