



The BRADDOCK BEACON

703-425-9300 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/ Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov

SUPERVISOR COOK ANNOUNCES HOA/CA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT; MORE DATES TO SAVE IN SEPT, OCT

September 23 - Home Owners Association and Civic Association Leadership Summit

Where: Kings Park Library Meeting Room

When: 7:30 p.m.

Supervisor Cook is inviting leadership of Home Owners and Civic Associations to join together for a night filled with brainstorming, story swapping, and more. Supervisor Cook hopes to improve communication between neighborhoods, helping solve intractable community problems and disseminating successful practices.

September 9 - Ox Roads Estate Community Meeting

Where: Fairview Elementary School

When: 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

See more on Page 6.

September 28 - Oak Hill History Day

This free program will be held September 28 at the historic Oak Hill Mansion, located at 4716 Wakefield Chapel Road in Annandale.

Oak Hill, a privately owned 18th century Georgian-style home, is all that remains of the Ravensworth Tract – which once totaled more than 22,000 acres. This was one of three plantations owned by the Fitzhugh family. The original home remains intact along with much of the historic landscape, including 200-year-old boxwoods.

Look for more information in the September issue of the Braddock Beacon.

September 30 - Community Pool Leadership Meeting

Where: Braddock Hall

When: 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Supervisor Cook hosts a meeting with the leaders of swim clubs in Braddock District to discuss permits, zoning requirements, and other important information. It also offers people a chance to share best practices and discuss challenges.

October 2 - University Community Forum

Where: Kings Park Library

When: 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Representatives from Braddock District, George Mason University, and Fairfax City talk and take questions on university-community relations.

October 10 - Volunteer Town Hall

Where: To be determined

When: 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Learn about the many volunteer opportunities in Braddock District and Fairfax County at this volunteer town hall. Look for more info in the September and October issues of the Beacon.

October 15 - NVCC/Wakefield Forum

Where: TBD

When: 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Representatives from Braddock District and NVCC talk about issues affecting the community.



Supervisor John C. Cook

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS:

Please continue to let us know about your successful Community Engagement efforts. Keep up the good work!

Please call (703) 425-9300 or email Ann Sharp at ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov with your latest information.

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BRADDOCK BEACON

If you would like the Braddock Beacon and the Cook Advisory electronically, instead of through mail, please contact us at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov and write "BEACON" in the subject line.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT NOW ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Be sure to stay up to date on the Braddock District. See: <http://www.facebook.com/supervisorcook> and on <http://www.twitter.com/braddockoffice>

NEW STUDENT WALKING ROUTES TO FROST MS AND WOODSON HS

For many years, many students walking to Frost Middle School or Woodson High School have used the pipe stem and wooded area at the north end of Pickett Road as a cut through to get to the school property. In an effort to help the homeowners who live on that pipe stem and to increase the safety of students who are walking to school, alternate routes have been found for those who choose to walk to school.

Homeowners, school officials and Supervisor Cook worked together to come up with alternative routes that currently exist but would not involve students walking through the private property of homeowners.

One route would have walkers enter the path



on Pickett Road where the gas pipeline runs and enter the school property by using the area between the trees and tennis courts. The second route would be to use the sidewalk that runs through the two houses at the end of Nutwood Way which enters onto the school property.

The school will also be letting students and parents know about the new routes at the beginning of the school year. The first several days of classes, police officers will be in place to encourage the use of the alternate pathways.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Ann Sharp in Supervisor Cook's office at ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov.

RECLAIMED WATER PROJECT INAUGURATED

The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services recently celebrated the completion of a significant water reuse project. The project makes use of reclaimed water from the Noman M. Cole Pollution Control Plant for irrigation and industrial purposes.

Reclaimed water is wastewater that has been thoroughly treated to remove harmful organisms, bacteria, viruses, and heavy metals. The water is extensively filtered and disinfected. This water is not intended for drinking, but is safe to use for other purposes such as watering golf courses and ball fields, and for some industrial applications. Continuous monitoring and testing takes place to ensure the water meets or surpasses strict state and federal requirements for reuse. Reclaimed water pipelines are distinguished from other water lines by their purple color.

Stringent limits are placed on wastewater treatment plants to remove more nitrogen and phosphorus from the treated wastewater that is released to streams and rivers, and ultimately to the Chesapeake Bay. As

part of a Nutrient Management Program for further reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus from the treated wastewater, DPWES collaborated on the design and construction of the Reclaimed Water Project.

To complete the project, the county received approximately \$10 million in grant money from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The purple pipeline was installed from the plant in Lorton to the Covanta Energy-from-Waste facility, to the Laurel Hill Golf Course and to the Lower Potomac Park. The Energy-from-Waste facility processes household trash into energy, and uses approximately 1.3 million gallons of water per day in its cooling towers. The Laurel Hill Golf Course and the Lower Potomac Park ball fields will use the reclaimed water for irrigation.

LIFELONG LEARNERS CAN FIND CLASSES AT OSHER

If you have a passion for learning in a social setting, over 100 stimulating, diverse, exam-free daytime courses and special events, plus social and cultural activities, are in store for you this fall (Sept. 16 – Nov. 8) if you're a member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University.

For example, the National Park Service (NPS) will present two fascinating courses: "Nothing Short of Hell on Earth," about the pivotal year of 1916 in affecting the direction of World War I; and "The Struggle to Create Monumental Washington," concerning the firestorm of crisis, controversy, competition, criticism and complaint surrounding the creation of most D.C. - area monuments. The NPS has presented some of OLLI's longest-running and most successful programs, with over 75 courses, special events and trips offered since 2001.

Of course, OLLI will be offering lots more than just Park Service courses: George Mason faculty will be teaching subjects such

as, "Music Sampler," "Economics Potpourri," "Chinese [Cultural] Potpourri" and "Cultures and Religions of the Middle East."

OLLI is an independent, thousand-member nonprofit founded in 1991 that offers Northern Virginia seniors and others a vast array of intellectual, social and cultural experiences throughout the year. Classes are held in Fairfax (4210 Roberts Road, between Braddock and Main Street), Reston and Loudoun County.

If you'd like to find out more about OLLI, go to olli.gmu.edu. You can also sample two 85-minute OLLI class sessions in person, if space available. If you decide to become a member, there's a one-term rate of \$150, or a year of classes for \$360 (can be paid with monthly installments). The registration period for fall term classes runs Aug. 1 – 23; for more information, call 703-503-3384, email olli@gmu.edu, or go to the website above.

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On July 2nd, Supervisor Cook participated in a tabletop exercise on Emergency Management that was held at the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center. The daylong seminar was put on by the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security and attendees included other Board members and Staff as well as many of the Fairfax County department heads. It was an insightful look at what we need to do and how we already are prepared for natural and manmade disasters.

On July 4th, Supervisor Cook participated in two parades, first in the City of Fairfax and then in his neighborhood of Kings Park. Supervisor Cook and his family attended the concert and fireworks show at Fairfax High School later that evening.

On July 10th, Supervisor Cook hosted the Braddock District Council Best of Braddock Awards Picnic and Ceremony here at Braddock Hall and Kings Park Library.

On July 11th, Supervisor Cook attended a 50+ Community Forum at Ravensworth Baptist Church in Annandale. This forum focused on issues concerning our growing senior population.



SUPERVISOR COOK MET WITH BOY SCOUT WILL OLSON ON JULY 18. WILL INTERVIEWED THE SUPERVISOR FOR A PROJECT.

On July 18th, Supervisor Cook attended a committee meeting for the Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy, and Coordinating Council. The meetings occur quarterly and are held at the Massey Building. Later that afternoon, he attended a Lunch N' Life event which was hosted by the Fairfax-Burke Shepherd's Center.

On July 20th, Supervisor Cook spoke at a Home Child Care Outreach town hall held at the Government Center. This town hall helped home daycare providers learn about the new County permit process.



SUPERVISOR COOK POSES WITH BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BILL BARFIELD (LEFT) AND TREASURER KEVIN MORSE.

On July 24th, Supervisor Cook attended a groundbreaking ceremony at Wakefield Park for a wonderful new project that exemplifies what public partnership is all about. This partnership involved Supervisor Cook, Fairfax County Park Authority, The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, Fairfax County DP-WES - Stormwater Planning, Dominion Virginia Power, VDOT/Fluor - 495 Express Lanes, Friends of Accotink Creek, Fairfax County Park Foundation, Fairfax Trails and Streams, Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, and Earth Sangha. The Wakefield Run stream restoration project will convert a degraded, eroding, and unstable stream to a stable condition using natural channel design methods and will improve water quality in Accotink Creek.



CITIZENS HONORED AT BEST OF BRADDOCK AWARDS



SUPERVISOR COOK POSES WITH OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND CITIZEN OF THE YEAR DIANE DIPIETRO AND HER FAMILY.

Supervisor Cook and the Braddock District Council hosted the annual Best of Braddock Awards on June 10 to celebrate neighbors who had given back to the community. Guests included Congressman Connolly, State Senators David Marsden and Chap Petersen, Delegates David Bulova and Eileen Filler-Corn, and Fairfax Public School Chairman Ilryong Moon.

Here's a list of the winners and a brief description of their achievement:

Braddock District Resident of the Year: Diane DiPietro, Kings Park West

When Diane DiPietro became a board member of the Kings West Swim Club, she didn't realize that she would eventually be a moving force behind the creation of a new park in her community and a change in state law. The Kings West Swim Club did not open for the 2005 season, and it soon became clear there were so few members that it would never be able to open again. As President of a now closed club, Diane also found herself to be in the position of being responsible for a property that was quickly becoming an eyesore in the community. She and other concerned neighbors began working with county officials, trying to find a use for property. Options were few, especially once it was discovered that the property was part of a Resource Protection Area.

When this came to the attention of her community's representatives to the General Assem-

bly, they both felt that something needed to be changed so that individuals would not take on personal liability when volunteering to serve on the board of a community association — including a pool. This change in state law protects all of us who choose to serve on our HOA and civic association boards.

As luck would have it, the new appointee to the Park Authority Board, Tony Vellucci, with the support of Supervisor Cook, was able to broker

a deal where the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and the Fairfax County Park Authority would clear the property, create an area that would provide in ground water filtration and could then become a small piece of parkland in the community. As a result, we now have the county's newest park, Rabbit Branch Park on Tapestry Drive.

Club or organization making a difference in Braddock District: Annandale Food Site

When this site opened in June 2009 the site served fewer than a dozen families each week. Now, the Food Site serves about 70 families a week. In addition to food, the Food Site provides coats during winter, gifts for children during Christmas, school supplies and more.

Club or Organization Making a Difference in Braddock District: Friends of the Burke Centre Library (FBCL)

FBCL provides support for adult and children's programs, and purchases equipment and materials for the library, supplementing what the library receives from the County budget. FBCL have donated \$12,510 to the Library Foundation and Fairfax County Public Library in 2013.

Most Can-Do Local Public Employee in Braddock District: Ed Richardson, Fairfax County Park Authority

Ed is the Fairfax County Park Authority Manager for Maintenance Area 4, which encompasses Braddock District west of Wakefield Chapel. Ed has worked hard to effectively carry out the FCPA mission of promoting and protecting our cultural and natural resources.

Most Outstanding Business in Braddock District: The Peterson Companies

The Fairfax Corner area might be new to Braddock District, but we're proud to have it. The Peterson Companies bring planned business retail, and residential living to the District and allow organizations to stage fundraising events in the area.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification in Braddock District: Dave Bowden from Fairfax County Park Authority, Craig Carinci, from Storm Water Management and the team responsible for conversion of the Kings West Swim Club.

When the Kings West Swim Club closed, and it became clear that the property could not be developed in any other way, Supervisor Cook continued to try to figure out what could be done to turn this piece of land into something positive for the community. With the valuable help of Tony Vellucci, Dave Bowden of the Fairfax County Park Authority and Craig Carinci, they figured out a way to remove the parking lot, pool house, deck and tennis courts to create an area with more pervious surface that could be used as a passive water filtration area and then eventually converted into parkland.

Special Recognition Award: The Audrey Moore Recreation Center Rescue Team

While swimming laps on May 18, Doug Padruitt started to feel dizzy. The next thing he knew he was on the deck surrounded by lifeguards and EMTs. It turned out he had a heart arrhythmia and his heart had stopped. He went underwater at that time. The team got Mr. Padruitt out of the water, started CPR, administered the AED, called paramedics and got him conscious and calmed down all in few short minutes.

IS THE LIFETIME LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOU?

Leadership Fairfax's newest leadership program, the Lifetime Leadership Program (LLP), is designed for those who are transitioning out of the workforce and are ready to use their wealth of knowledge, energy, and experience to make a difference in the community. In partnership with Volunteer Fairfax, and supported by the Positive Aging Coalition, George Mason University, Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, and the Area Agency on Aging, the class will meet on a bi-weekly basis over a 2-1/2 month period (September – November). On alternate weeks, the class will participate

in a group volunteering experience. Participants will explore ways to structure their next life chapter, gain deeper insight into the Fairfax County community and its needs, and forge new personal and professional connections.

Leadership Fairfax Lifetime Leadership Program

One small step can make a world of difference for you. Apply now for the 2013 Fall Class, which will begin September 18. Additional information about this program is available on the Leadership Fairfax website: <http://www.leadershipfairfax.org/lifetimeleadersprogram>.

WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR GOVERNMENT?

SUPERVISOR COOK IS LOOKING FOR APPOINTEES TO THE

LIBRARY BOARD AND HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL.

GO TO THIS LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION: [HTTP://WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/BACS/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/)

PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS DAY

August 21st is National Senior Citizens Day! This day is an opportunity to celebrate the wisdom and achievements senior citizens have made, as well as to advocate for the rights of older people throughout the world. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first National Senior Citizens Day in 1988, and this day is now celebrated annually. On this day, we are encouraged to recognize and show appreciation for the value and contribution of our elders to home, family and society. In his explanation, Reagan wrote, "Throughout our history, older people have achieved much for our families, our communities, and our country. That remains true today, and gives us ample reason this year to reserve a special day in honor of the senior citizens who mean so much to our land."

National Senior Citizens day is the perfect opportunity to do

something that will brighten the day of a senior in your life. Here are some ideas on how to celebrate this special day:

- Mail a handwritten card to a senior.
- Pick up the phone and call an elderly friend or loved one.
- Volunteer at a long-term care facility.
- Take your elderly parent, grandparent, or friend out to dinner (many restaurants offer a special senior citizen discount to honor the day!).
- Offer to take an elderly neighbor to the store or to help them around the house.
- Spend time with your elderly relatives playing one of their favorite games or asking them about favorite memories.
- If you are a senior citizen yourself, check for special giveaways and promotions at your favorite shops and restaurants!

VENDOR FORUM 2013

Fairfax County's Annual Reverse Trade Show
Meet, greet, and connect with purchasing professionals from
Fairfax County and various local governments in one convenient location.

Thursday September 26, 2013 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Fairfax County Government Center

12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Free Admission

Registration is Request: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpsm/vendorforum>

BRADDOCK DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES

Have the Master Gardeners Create a Lawn Management Plan for Your Home

Maintaining a healthy lawn that is full, green, and does not contribute fertilizer rich runoff to the Bay can be a difficult task. Luckily, the Master Gardener's Home Turf Program can help. For \$25, Master Gardener volunteers will come to your home to give you a complete lawn assessment, including a blended soil test that will examine your lawn for essential nutrients, organic matter content, and pH. When the results of the test come back, they will create a nutrient management plan that will meet the needs of your lawn while also protecting our water quality. To sign up for the HomeTurf program, please visit the Fairfax Master Gardeners' website at <http://fairfaxmga.org/ps/default.aspx>.

Get Native Tree Seedlings from the NWF's Trees for Wildlife Program

The National Wildlife Federation's Trees for Wildlife Program provides you all the mate-

rial you will need to successfully organize a tree planting volunteer day in your neighborhood or at your school. The program provides you with age-appropriate activity suggestions, educational materials stressing the importance of trees to wildlife, and - most importantly - native seedlings shipped right to your door. More information and order forms are available at: <http://www.nwf.org/trees-for-wildlife.aspx>.

Project BudBurst Needs Citizen Scientists to Monitor the Life Cycle of Local Plants

Project BudBurst is a nation-wide network of citizen scientists who observe the leafing, flowering, and fruiting of plants. The collected data is then used by researchers to study the effects of local, regional, and global climate change on plant life cycles. There is no cost or training needed to start with the program, and you can participate by uploading a single observation or many observations throughout the year. Many local plants are included on BudBurst's Top Ten

Watchlist, including Bluebells, Mayapples, and Red Osier Dogwood. More about the program and volunteer sign-up sheets can be found on the BudBurst website: <http://www.budburst.org/aboutus.php>.

Build Your Own Composter Workshop

Saturday, August 17

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$75.

Location: City of Falls Church Community Center

We'll give you the supplies, tools, instructions, and encouragement; you'll provide the enthusiasm and elbow grease and leave the workshop with your own 55 gallon tumbling composter! The Conservation District's sturdy composters are made of recycled 2x4s and food grade plastic barrels from the Northern Virginia Rain Barrel Program. To RSVP, please contact dan.schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov

BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE UPDATES

Penn Property Rezoning Approved by Planning Commission

Final plans to construct 10 single family homes adjacent to the Briarwood community were approved by the Braddock District Land Use Committee on July 16. On July 18, Fairfax County Planning Commission unanimously recommended to the Board of Supervisors that this project be approved. A final hearing before the Board will be held on September 10 at 3:30 p.m. The Applicant continues to work with Briarwood Homes Association to resolve several ongoing issues of concern relating to drainage and recreational improvements within that community. A staff report for this project (RZ-FDP-BR-003) was published on July 3, and can be found at: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4421603.PDF> To speak before the Board, call 703-324-3151 or sign up online at: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm.

Ox Road Estates Community Information Meeting Scheduled

A fourth revision to the plans for this 13 house residential community (RZ/FDP 2012-BR-

020) was formally submitted to the Department of Planning and Zoning on July 25 for review and analysis. These plans attempt to address staff and community concerns in four areas: noise, open space, stormwater, and tree preservation. A public hearing before the Planning Commission is now tentatively set for October 16. However, because the plans have been substantially revised since originally presented to the community last February, Supervisor Cook will host a second Community Information Meeting in the Fairview Elementary School cafeteria, 5815 Ox Rd on September 9, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. Individuals who would like to see the newest layout before the meeting can email Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov. To speak before the Planning Commission call 703-324-2865 or go to the following site: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/speaker.htm>.

Fairfax Forward Pilot Approved; Fairfax Center to be Studied

The Board of Supervisors approved this new Comprehensive Plan Review process during its July 9, meeting. Fairfax Forward will be implemented as a pilot program during the next

two years, after which the Board and Planning Commission will evaluate the program's effectiveness and efficiency.

The County decided a new approach was needed after evaluating the previously used Area Plans Review (APR) process. In comparison to APR, Fairfax Forward offers a number of benefits including greater public participation earlier in the process; a more comprehensive review of larger geographic areas; a more balanced review of high-density, urban-like areas like Tysons, and lower-density suburban neighborhoods.

During its first two-year pilot, Fairfax Forward will continue working on 16 land use studies and 22 new ones. A preliminary meeting to establish a community participation process for the upcoming review of the Fairfax Center Area was held in late July. Braddock Residents who would like to become involved in considering updates for this area should send an email to Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov. Supervisor Cook and County staff will hold a town hall event this fall to provide more details.

HUMAN SERVICES CORNER

As summer draws to a close there are many preparations to make for the beginning of the fall. Here is some helpful info for families.

Caregiving

Whether you are a kinship caregiver (raising a relative's child) or a sandwich caregiver (older parents and younger children), planning back-to-school can be an exciting time with the right information.

•August 2-4, 2013 Virginia's Sales Tax Holiday: School Supplies and Clothing

During this three-day period, purchases of qualifying school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item and purchases of qualifying clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from Virginia sales tax.

•Good Food on a Tight Budget

Environmental Working Group's Food Shopping Guide - <http://www.ewg.org/good-food/index.php>

•Choosing Child Care Seminar

If you are one of the many parents in Fairfax County who is searching for child care, you might be interested in attending one of our "Choosing Child Care" seminars. Pre-registration form required – for information call 703-449-8484.

Tuesday, August 6

7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Pennino Building, Room 834

12011 Government Center Parkway

Fairfax, VA 22035

•Individual and Family Support Program FY2014

Start date is September 3, 2013. (applications will not be accepted before this date)

The Individual and Family Support Program is designed to assist individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities on the waiting list for the ID or DD Waiver (and their families) to access short-term person/family-centered resources, supports, and services. For additional information, please go to: www.dbhds.virginia.gov/ODS-default.htm.

Seniors

The forums on Creating a More Aging-Friendly Community were a great success! About 700 people attended countywide and more than 80 from the Braddock District. Thanks to all who attended or wrote to us with their comments and suggestions. Caregiver's Corner Online will keep you informed of the next steps in the development of the Fairfax 50+ Plan.

In the meantime, if you would like to express an opinion or add a suggestion on how to make Fairfax County a more aging-friendly community, visit the Fairfax 50+ Web page at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/fairfax50Plus.htm>. We'll make sure your comments are included in the list of public comments.

•Braddock District Aging in Place Presentation

August 21, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.

Braddock Hall – 9002 Burke Center Pkwy.

Burke, VA 22015

Topic – Senior Center Without Walls

Other events around town:

•Lunch Bunch

Parent Information Sessions to help you navigate the complex disability systems.

Informal and over your lunch hour.

12- 2 p.m.**

Tuesday, August 6, 20

RSVP Required

Please RSVP Online

<http://new.thearcofnova.org/programs/info-referral/lunch-bunch/> or call 703-532-3214 x 101

•Winnie the Poo

Workhouse Arts Center

9601 Ox Road

Lorton, VA 22079

LIVE onstage! Join Pooh, Piglet and all the rest for an adventurous afternoon in the Hundred Acre Wood! The forest is in a worry when two mysterious new neighbors, Kanga and Roo, move in. On top of that, Eeyore has lost his tail again! Will Piglet come to the rescue?

Show dates: Saturdays and Sundays, August 3-September 29

Show Times: 1:00 p.m. (75 minute show, with one intermission)

Location: Building W3 Theatre

Tickets: \$12 adults; \$8 children under 12 years old

SIGN UP FOR 'CERT' CLASSES

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

Fairfax County is offering three CERT Basic training classes in the fall. Two identical classes will be conducted at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy (4600 West Ox Road). The first class is held on Mondays, beginning September 9, and the second on Wednesdays, beginning September 11. Each class will have eight sessions, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There is a good mix classroom instruction with practice drills and exercises to enhance skill learning. These class utilizing the fire academy

training facilities and instructors.

A third CERT class will be conducted in the community at the Great Springfield Volunteer Fire Station 22 (7011 Backlick Road) beginning on Wednesday September 11. This class has eight sessions, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The classroom instruction is the same as the Academy classes, but the class size and hands-on instruction is limited by the available facilities.

CERT Basic training does not require any special physical strength or agility. Safety and preparedness is stressed throughout the course of instruction. This training is FREE. The CERT program furnishes personal protective equipment for the training that the students retain upon completion of the class. You can enroll by going to the Fairfax County CERT website: www.fairfaxcountyCERT.com.

For further information contact the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Volunteer Coordinator's Office, 703-246-3926.