



The BRADDOCK BEACON

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

BRADDOCK ROAD WIDENING PROJECT CONSIDERED

Significant congestion relief could soon be coming to Braddock Road. Fairfax County will soon begin seriously looking at long-standing plans to widen Braddock Road from Guinea Road to the Beltway, including HOV-Bus lanes from Burke Lake Road to the 495 Express Lanes. This effort is moving forward due to last year's landmark transportation funding bill.

To begin the process, Supervisor Cook will hold an informational meeting on February 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lake Braddock Secondary School's

Lecture Hall. The meeting will allow the County to outline the project, collect public feedback, and introduce a citizen's committee that will have a key role in planning.

The County proposal combines three projects, two of them expected to be funded, that have been part of the Comprehensive Plan for many years. One project could add one more lane in each direction from Guinea Road to Burke Lake Road. The second would add one HOV-Bus lane in each direction from Burke Lake Road to the Beltway. Both projects are expected to receive approval and funding when the Board of Supervisors approves its next six-year transportation plan next year. A third related project is not funded but will be considered during the planning effort – a transit center (parking garage and bus stops) along Braddock Road in back of the Kings Park Shopping Center. That center could be a key location for express bus service to Tysons, using the new 495 Express Lanes. There is no current design for these proj-



ects. A citizens committee will work with County transportation staff over the next year to draw the specifics of the projects. Supervisor Cook plans to ask leaders of the civic associations of the communities along this route to name members of this committee. The committee will be chaired by Kevin Morse, who is the Braddock District appointee to the Transportation Advisory Committee and vice-chaired by Tom Kennedy, the Braddock District appointee to the Trails and Sidewalks Committee. There will

be extensive opportunity for citizen participation in the design and consideration of these projects.

Funding for the projects could come from several sources but is made possible by the significant state fund-

ing contained in last year's transportation bill. The projects scored high on a recent County cost-benefit analysis. This part of Braddock Road currently handles approximately 70,000 automobile trips a day, and is one of the more congested corridors in the County. Last year the County launched new bus service from the Burke Centre VRE station to Tysons with stops on Braddock Road near the Burke Lake Road intersection. The creation of HOV-Express Bus lanes is a key component to making that new bus route successful.

Supervisor Cook urges residents to attend the February 19 meeting and play an active role in moving this project forward in a way most friendly to the adjoining communities.



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>

A TASTE OF BRADDOCK

Residents from Braddock District joined Supervisor Cook and staff for the annual Taste of Braddock open house on December 4th. Restaurants from across the district donated food for the occasion, and many brought donated blankets and coats with them for charity.



Supervisor Cook poses with “Chef G” and her students from Annandale High School. A hearty thanks to the program for all their help.



Zinga donated their delicious frozen yogurt for dessert. Zinga recently moved into an open spot at the Kings Park Shopping Center on the corner of Burke Lake Road and Braddock Road.

MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



Cafe Rio served heaps of enchiladas, rice, and beans to legions of hungry residents.

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ALADDIN’S EATERY | CAPITAL BAGEL BAKERY |
| AUSTIN GRILL | CHICKEN PALACE |
| BANGKOK GOLDEN THAI | CHILI’S BAR AND GRILL |
| MARGARITA’S GRILL | COYOTE GRILL |
| CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN | ZINGA |
| DICKEY’S BARBECUE PIT | SAXBY’S |
| GIARDINO | HUNAN WEST |
| KILROY’S | LOS TOLTECOS |
| MAGILL’S FAMOUS PIZZA | MILLANO’S |
| EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS | CAFÉ RIO |
| SMITH & CLARKSON’S DELI | SPARTAN’S |
| WEGMANS | CUPCAKES ACTUALLY |

SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On November 7th, Supervisor Cook spoke on a panel that consisted of State and Local elected officials who came together to discuss the outcomes of the November 5th election. The event was hosted by Northern Virginia Community College and took place at the Alexandria NVCC Campus.

On November 12th, Supervisor Cook attended the VDOT Dialogue on Transportation, which took place at the Government Center.

On November 13th, Supervisor Cook attended the monthly meeting of the Braddock District Council at Braddock Hall.

On November 14th, Supervisor Cook attended the 21st Annual CARE Awards Breakfast which was sponsored by Northern Virginia Family Services. The CARE Awards recognize companies in Northern Virginia who are leaders in providing innovative and supportive, family-friendly policies, programs and services.

On November 16th, Supervisor Cook attended the annual Community Day at Little River Glen

On November 21st, Supervisor Cook took part in the Leadership Fairfax Government Day at the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center. This event featured a round-table discussion with members of the Board of Supervisors and the recent class of Leadership Fairfax class members.

On November 25th, Supervisor Cook was on hand as the



Braddock office was a ticket sales point for the annual VRE Santa Train. This is always a very popular event and this year tickets were sold out at the office in 25 minutes and online in one minute!

SUPERVISOR COOK HELPING SERVE CUPCAKES AT CUPCAKES ACTUALLY ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

On November 30th, Supervisor Cook made opening

remarks at Burke Lake Park for the annual Drumstix Dash which was sponsored by the Virginia Housing Development Authority. From there he went over to Fairfax Corner and visited a few establishments as they took part in Small Business Saturday which is a counterpart to Black Friday.



SUPERVISOR COOK ATTENDED THE TASTE OF FALL FOR FACETS, WHICH WAS HELD AT THE SHERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER IN FAIRFAX.

BRADDOCK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS HOSTS JOHN FREY



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

This month's show features John Frey, the Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court, the largest circuit court in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He was first elected in 1991 and has held the seat ever since. John T. Frey, was recently given an open government award from the Virginia Coalition for

Open Government.

Mr. Frey was given the honor for making court opinions available online for no charge, making him a trail blazer in that regard. Open and transparent government is absolutely essential in a well-functioning Republic, and court records in particular should be made available to the general public. The Virginia Coalition for Open Government is a nonprofit alliance formed to promote expanded access to government records, meetings and other proceedings at the state and local level. Founding members of the coalition include USA Today, Associated Press, the Freedom Forum, the Virginia Genealogical Society, Library of Virginia, and more.

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.

HUMAN SERVICES CORNER

A wonderful video is on the Older Adults webpage on Fairfax County website that takes a close look of the village concept and how the model helps seniors age in place and how the village helps communities as a whole remain independent. Take a moment to watch it at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/>.

Family Assistance -The Crisis Assistance program helps households in emergency situations by providing primary heat security deposits and funding the repair or replacement of heating equipment. The application period began Friday, November 1, 2013 and closes on Monday, March 17, 2014. For more information, click here: <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.cgi>

The Little River Glen Senior Center in Fairfax needs volunteers to help with front desk coverage and special events. It also needs volunteer instructors for fitness, art, computer, and ESL classes. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

12 Days of Giving - The chaotic shopping season is here. This year give the gift of charity. Donate to your favorite nonprofit in someone's honor from the comfort of your home. Cross a name off your list and take a tax deduction. It's a win-win!! As our gift to you, OP3 has compiled 12 Ways of Giving in Fairfax County. http://www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org/enews/Ways_to_give_1213.html

Developmental Art & Games Group

December 16th, 2013, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.,

Additional dates are being planned for January 2014.

Play new games, create your own art, make new friends, learn something new and challenge yourself while developing new skills in creative problem solving, attention, turn taking, social skills, team collaboration, and self-esteem. Fee & RSVP required

Contact Diane at: 703-532-3214 Ext # 118, or DMonnig@thearcof-nova.org

Parents Of Autistic Children of Northern Virginia (POAC-NoVA) and the Autism Society of Northern Virginia's (ASNVA) Holiday Party

Saturday, December 14 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Kena Shriners Hall, 9001 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax

This is for all of our friends in the disability community. In order to avoid long lines at the mall, please join us for photo opportunities with Santa from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please bring a dessert or snack if you like, but it is not required. An RSVP would be GREATLY appreciated. Please RSVP by email to holidayparty@poac-nova.org with the number attending. If you have any questions, please call 703 241-2640.

South Run RECenter's Annual Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 14 9am, 10:30am - The jolly old elf will be available for photos, and Mrs. Claus will read stories to the children. This festive one-hour holiday program costs \$12 and includes one child and one adult. The cost is \$5 per additional child or adults. Kids two and younger are admitted free of charge.

Aging in Place

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

7:30 p.m. – Braddock Hall

9002 Burke Lake Road

Burke, VA 22015

Kings Park Library Building

Shepherd's Center

Sunday, December 8, 2013 – Winter Wonderland Holiday Music Concert –Richard J. Ernst Cultural Center (NOVA)

8333 Little River TnPk, Annandale, VA

Thursday, January 16, 2014 - Lunch N'Life –Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church

5222 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax County

FAIRFAX BOARD MODIFIES NOISE ORDINANCE

After a public hearing held on December 3, the Board of Supervisors authorized amendments to the Fairfax County Noise Ordinance to add a new category for “excessive sound generation in residential areas and dwellings.” This will enable the police to effectively respond to calls complaining about sound caused by loud parties. Fairfax Police responded to approximately 150 such calls for such events each month in 2012. The new ordinance will enable to the police to issue a summons for a such a violation which is a Class 3 misde-

meanor.

The noise must be audible to the complainant within their own home with doors and windows closed. Exemptions are granted for construction activities, trash trucks, lawn care or tree maintenance equipment, band performance activities and bells, carillons and other calls to worship that do not last longer than 5 minutes. For more information on the noise ordinance, go to: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/noise/>. For a full text of the amendment, go to the following website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/bdagenda/2013/board-package-dec3.pdf> and scroll to page 370.

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The Department of Planning and Zoning is currently working on a comprehensive revision to Chapter 108 of the Zoning Ordinance, and this new chapter is considered to be an interim solution to a Virginia Supreme Court decision in 2009 that invalidated a Virginia Beach noise ordinance as unconstitutional.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE UPDATES

Ox Road Estates. On November 21, the Planning Commission unanimously voted that this proposed rezoning of a 5.15 acre parcel on Ox Road at Adare Drive be sent forward to the Board of Supervisors for Public Hearing with its recommendation for approval. This application currently proposes 13 single family homes, at a density of 2.5 homes per acre, which is consistent with the recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan. Between the initial public hearing on October 18 and this decision, the Commission reviewed testimony and letters from the community both before and after the hearing, and worked with staff to clarify and/or resolve concerns that had been raised. Those issues focused on density, stormwater, tree preservation and traffic. In moving that the application be approved, Braddock Commissioner Hurley discussed each point that had been raised and how it had been addressed. A link to her verbatim remarks can be found at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/pdfs/nell_hurley_remarks.pdf. In addition, the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee, after hearing testimony, determined that it wanted to share with the Commission the steps it had taken leading up to its recommendation for approval. A link to the Committee's deliberations can be found here: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/pdfs/planning_commission_comments_ox_road.pdf

This case is currently scheduled for a public hearing before the Board of Supervisors on January 14, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Residential Studio Units Update. At its November 20 meeting, the Planning Commission Subcommittee studying this proposal received further guidance from the Board of Supervisors which endorsed an earlier recommendation of Commissioner Tim Sergeant to further limit where these units could be placed. The new draft would not allow RSU's in low-density residential areas. The Board also recommended the elimination of an option which would allow conversion of a single family detached residence into RSUs. Therefore, the ongoing review of the proposal will focus locating RSUs in the upper R-Districts, as well as commercial, industrial, and mixed-use planned development districts. The Board of Supervisors noted that while there is support for the RSU concept overall, there is deep-seated opposition to allowing them as a use in lower density residential districts or single family neighborhoods. *The next two meeting of the Planning Commission*

on this topic are currently scheduled for January 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. (Government Center, Conference Rooms 4-5) and January 22 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 2-3.

Stormwater Management Ordinance. For over a year, the County has been working with stakeholders to develop a new Stormwater Management Ordinance in response to state regulations requiring localities to adopt ordinances and take over reviews and inspections for Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) general permits relating to stormwater runoff from construction sites on or before July 1, 2014. A public hearing was held by the Planning Commission in October and the Commission took action on November 21, 2013. The Board of Supervisors Public Hearing is scheduled for January 28, 2014 in order to give it time consider and react to changes that State recently made to its own ordinance that must be incorporated. Many processes, systems, ordinance changes and training of staff and industry, in addition to a written stormwater management ordinance, will need to occur in order for the county to be ready for the effective date. To review the ordinance as recommended by the Planning Commission, go to the following site: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwaterordinance.htm>

Proposed Child Care Zoning Ordinance Amendment. On December 3, 2013, the Board of Supervisors authorized public hearings for a Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Home Child Care Facilities and Child Care Centers for Occasional Care. The proposed Amendment: 1) Revises the use limitations in the PDH, PDC, PRM, and PTC Districts so that home child care facilities requiring special exception approval are subject to the same additional standards and plan submission requirements which are applicable to other home child care facilities requiring special permit approval. It would also reduce the current special exception application fee of \$1,100 to as low as \$435. A separate portion of the amendment would revise the child care facilities for occasional care provisions to allow such use in regional and super-regional shopping centers as a permitted accessory use. The staff report can be read at the following website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoningordinance/proposed/>. The Planning Commission Public Hearing is currently set for January 8, 2014 at 8:15 p.m.

IMPORTANT: RSU MEETING ON JANUARY 8

SPEAK WITH SUPERVISOR COOK, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, AND COUNTY STAFF ABOUT THE RESIDENTIAL STUDIO ORDINANCE

WHEN: JANUARY 8, 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

WHERE: OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
5004 SIDEBURN ROAD, FAIRFAX, VA 22032

HOW TO STAY HEALTHY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Being attentive to our health isn't always a top priority during the holiday season, but the hustle and the stress often depletes us both physically and mentally. Here are some helpful recommendations from the American Heart Association to help keep each of us at our best throughout the festivities:

1. Control portions - Especially during the holidays, know that you'll have more opportunities to eat festive snacks and desserts. You don't have to deprive yourself, just eat smaller portions and less often. Perhaps start with a healthy meal or snack first.

2. Eat when you're hungry - Just because the clock says noon doesn't mean you have to eat. If you're not hungry, wait until you are - just don't wait until you're famished because you might overeat. Also, don't eat just because the food is available. Learn more about why you might be eating when not hungry.

3. Drink water - Sodas and other sweet drinks contain a lot of calories and many contain caffeine. For a healthier version of "soda" mix 100% fruit juice with club soda or seltzer. Drink extra water to help flush out the excess sodium you consume during rich meals.

4. Increase exercise - After big holiday meals, engage the family in a physical activity like a walk, ice skating

or the dance video games.

5. Be realistic - The holidays don't have to be perfect or just like last year. As families change and grow, traditions and rituals often change as well. Choose a few to hold on to, and be open to creating new ones. For example, if your adult children can't come to your house, find new ways to celebrate together, such as sharing pictures, emails or videos.

6. Set aside differences - Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don't live up to all of your expectations. Set aside grievances until a more appropriate time for discussion. And be understanding if others get upset or distressed when something goes awry. Chances are they're feeling the effects of holiday stress and depression, too.

7. Stick to a budget - Before you go gift and food shopping, decide how much money you can afford to spend, then stick to your budget. Don't try to buy happiness with an avalanche of gifts. Try these alternatives: Donate to a charity in someone's name, give homemade gifts or start a family gift exchange.

8. Plan ahead - Set aside specific days for shopping, baking, visiting friends and other activities. Plan your menus and then make your shopping list. That will help prevent last-minute scrambling to buy forgotten ingredients. And make

sure to line up help for party prep and cleanup.

9. Learn to say no - Saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed. Friends and colleagues will understand if you can't participate in every project or activity. If it's not possible to say no when your boss asks you to work overtime, try to remove something else from your agenda to make up for the lost time.

10. Don't abandon healthy habits - Don't let the holidays become a free-for-all. Overindulgence only adds to your stress and guilt. Have a healthy snack before holiday parties so that you don't go overboard on sweets, cheese or drinks. Continue to get plenty of sleep and physical activity.

11. Take a breather - Make some time for yourself. Spending just 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to handle everything you need to do. Take a walk at night and stargaze. Listen to soothing music. Find something that reduces stress by clearing your mind, slowing your breathing and restoring inner calm.

PREPARING FOR MOTHER NATURE

We've already had two significant weather events this December, potentially indicating a snowier winter than 2012. For whatever mother nature throws our way, the Virginia Department of Transportation is ready to address it.

However, it's no small task to clear more than 17,000 lane miles. For a typical winter storm, dropping between two and four inches, VDOT's goal is to clear snow in all neighborhoods within 24 hours. For larger storms, dropping approximately six inches, all neighborhoods should be cleared within 48 hours. The heavier the snowfall, the longer it will take to clear all roads.

Important links

•The best way to keep up to date winter weather related issues,

and all potential emergencies in Fairfax County is through the Fairfax County Emergency blog, which can be accessed here: <http://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com/>.

•Check <http://www.vdotplows.org/> to see where the snow plows are in Northern Virginia.

•For road conditions, call 511, check www.511virginia.org, or www.virginiaDOT.org by clicking on News and Road Conditions.

•To report a problem, you can call 1-800-FOR ROAD or send an email to novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov. VDOT is also on Twitter at [@511northernva](https://twitter.com/511northernva).

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Give the Gift of Trees for the Holiday with Reforest Fairfax

Looking for a unique gift this holiday season? Consider a gift that will last a lifetime: the gift of trees. Through Reforest Fairfax, a partnership between The Fairfax County Restoration Project and Fairfax ReLeaf, five native trees will be planted in Fairfax County in honor of your recipient, and a beautiful card and certificate will be sent to notify them of the dedication. By giving trees, you will be helping to ensure a beautiful and healthy Fairfax County long into the future. Each gift costs \$35 and all proceeds benefit Reforest Fairfax. <http://www.fcrrp3.org/reforestfairfax/>

Santa's Hayride and Lakeside Winter Village December 14 Saturday

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$10 per person (children under 2 are free) To register please call 703-569-0285

It's holly jolly family fun at Lake Accotink Park! Enjoy holiday music and merriment on a horse- or tractor-drawn wagon ride through one of the most scenic outdoor parks in the area. Warm up with seasonal treats available for purchase at our snack bar, and settle in to share stories around a toasty campfire. Also visit with Santa and tell him what's on your wish list. Remember to bring a camera and make it your holiday family photo if you wish! Dress for the weather and plan on a brisk walk from the parking lot.

All of December - January 5

Meadowlark Garden's Winter Walk of Lights

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Location: 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct, Vienna, VA 22182

Experience more than 500,000 LED lights and displays that bring Meadowlark Botanical Gardens to life, including a flowing stream of lights. Marvel at a two story animated fountain, stroll past the gingerbread village, and explore the beauty of nature in a whole new light! Timed tickets are available for purchase online at: <http://winterwalkoflights.com> A limited number will be also be available nightly at the door.

Become a Fairfax Tree Steward

Fairfax Tree Stewards are dedicated community members who protect and expand our urban forest canopy by educating the public about the value of trees, learning about the needs of the urban forest, assisting with the care of trees on public lands, and partnering with local government and community groups in improving the forested canopy. The spring training for new Stewards - which covers tree ID, biology, physiology, planting, maintenance, pruning, and selection - will be held on Tuesday evenings from February to April, with occasional Saturday field trips. Exact dates will be announced soon. The cost is \$120 which covers the cost of the course, manuals, books and all other materials. No one will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information, contact Jim McGlone of the Virginia Department of Forestry - Jim.

McGlone@dof.virginia.gov - or visit <http://ffxtreestewards.org>

Volunteer at One of Many Local Christmas Bird Counts

The Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count is the world's longest-running citizen science project. As they have for the last 113 years, volunteers from around North America (and now the world!) will conduct local bird counts between December 15th and January 5th. This data represents an invaluable record of the long term size and health of wild bird populations. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia has compiled a handy list of local bird counts on their website: <http://www.audubonva.org>

Monarch Butterfly Woes Point to the Need for More Native Plants. You Can Help!

The beautiful monarch butterfly generally ends its southern migration on November 1st in the mountains of Mexico, but this year observers have recorded a record-low number of arrivals. One of the prime culprits for this huge decline is the loss of native plants - especially milkweed - that provide food to power the monarch's journey. Planting milkweed and other native plants in your yard can provide the food and energy needed by the monarch and other important native insects. Seed kits and guides for creating your own "Monarch Waystation" are available at: <http://www.monarchwatch.org>

Build Your Own Composter Workshop Date Announced

The Conservation District's popular Build Your Own Composter program has announced the date and location of their next workshop: February 8, 2014 in the City of Falls Church. If you would like to reserve your spot early (there are only 15!) please contact Dan Schwartz at Daniel.Schwartz@fairfaxcounty.gov

Engage with Mason: Successful Campus-Community Partnerships for Organizations Focused on the Environment and Sustainability

Thursday, December 12

Time: 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: The Hub, Meeting Room 1, on the Fairfax Campus of George Mason University

Join the Mason Sustainability Institute for an informative discussion of how your organization can connect with George Mason University students and faculty and benefit from their student power and research capacity. There will be a panel discussion with Mason Students, Faculty, and representatives from local non-profits as well as time to network with colleagues. Light refreshments will be served. For directions and to RSVP, please visit the Mason Center for Leadership and Community Engagement website.