

Volume 8 | Issue 2



February 11, 2016

### **Diversion First Initiative Making Great Progress**

Diversion First is a collaborative effort to reduce the number of people with mental illness in the county jail by diverting low risk offenders experiencing a mental health crisis to treatment rather than incarceration.

A big part of this process includes equipping officers with the training necessary to handle situations involving those suffering from mental illness. In an effort to continue giving officers the tools and training they need, Fairfax County police officers and deputy sheriffs are receiving 40 hours of state-certified Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. This will help them learn about the challenges of living with a mental illness and how to de-escalate crisis situations, both in the community and in the jail. We want to enable our officers and deputies to have the best tools available to them to ensure our safety and theirs.

After completing the training, CIT officers and deputies have the tools and knowledge to identify persons experiencing a mental health episode. This allows them to make informed decisions about whether to take a person to the Merrifield Crisis Response Center (MCRC) for assessment or to bring them to the Adult Detention Center. They may also be able to de-escalate the crisis and resolve the situation on the spot. MCRC is staffed by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), the county's mental health provider.

As of January 1, 2016, a police officer and/or deputy sheriff is on duty at the MCRC 21.5 hours a day, seven days a week to accept custody of a person experiencing a crisis so that the patrol officer can get back on the street quickly. Before January 1st, the transfer of custody was not available. Patrol officers who brought a person in crisis to CSB Emergency Services had to stay until the CSB completed an assessment and, if needed, found a bed for the person in a hospital or other treatment facility. The patrol officer often would have to wait for several hours during this process and then drive the person to a psychiatric hospital several hours away. With the new staffing and transfer of custody, the patrol officer can get back to work in less than an hour, making diversion an efficient option.

In less than a year, Fairfax County went from having a limited diversion process to launching the Merrifield Crisis Response Center, mostly by leveraging existing resources. The Diversion First effort is just beginning.



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

Future goals include increased housing assistance and community supports and additional focus on court and magistrate diversion efforts.

Critical to the success of Diversion First is continued stakeholder collaboration among public safety agencies, mental health professionals, courts, the Board of Supervisors and community members. Equally important to the success of Diversion First is the collection and analysis of data. Early results are encouraging. In the first month, 386 people were seen. Of the 386 total served, 107 (28 percent) involved law enforcement; 66 (62 percent) cases were informal hand-offs to MCRC Emergency Services staff; 41 (35 percent) cases were Emergency Custody Order (ECO) police transports to MCRC. In 29 of the 41 (71 percent) cases, custody was assumed by an MCRC officer/deputy. These are robust first statistics and provide positive reinforcement that Fairfax County is on the right track.

### **Community & Neighborhood Leaders Conference**

The Community & Neighborhood Leaders Conference will be held from 9:00 a.m. to about 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 5th at Falls Church High School (7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church, VA 22042). The purpose of this conference will be to better educate and collaborate with community and neighborhood leaders about how the County can work with them to recognize and address many differing neighborhood trends and challenges. Following a brief opening welcome and remarks, the attendees will break out into several classroom settings to take part in presentations and discussions on topics of value to them and their community. Group and agency information tables will also be available for attendees to collect information of interest between presentation sessions.

### **NVCC Wakefield Chapel Forum – February 29th**

Supervisor Cook will be hosting the NVCC Wakefield Chapel Forum on February 29, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity for the community to meet the new president of Northern Virginia Community College, Dr. Scott Ralls. Dr. Ralls is the fifth president of NVCC and looks forward to meeting some of the Annandale Campus neighbors. The meeting will take place in Conference Room 306 in the newly renovated Brault Building (4001 Wakefield Chapel Road). If anyone has any other topics they would like to have on the agenda, please contact Ann Sharp at [ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-425-9300 no later than February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **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's show focuses on "Diversion First," a major new initiative in Fairfax County that is one of the most important efforts we have undertaken in recent years. This program has the potential to help hundreds of people get needed mental health treatment and eventually save significant local tax dollars now being spent on expensive and often counterproductive incarceration. Joining Supervisor Cook are Gary Ambrose, Chairman of the Diversion First Stakeholder's Group; Laura Yager, from the Community Services Board; and Lieutenant Ryan Morgan, with the Fairfax County Police Department.

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.

## Save the Date!

Be sure to save the dates for the following:

**Budget Town Hall:** There will be a **Budget Town Hall with County Executive Ed Long on March 28<sup>th</sup>**. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in Robinson Secondary School's Recital Hall.

**Braddock Road Study Community Information Meeting:** The community meeting for the Braddock Road Study will be held on **April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** in the cafeteria at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

## Braddock District Council Information

The Braddock District Council (BDC) has a history of being a means of sharing information with residents in the Braddock District, and it is proud to be continuing with that tradition. In March and April, the BDC is hosting meetings of particular interest to all of us. On March 9<sup>th</sup>, a representative from the county will be giving an overview of this year's proposed county budget, and on April 13<sup>th</sup>, our representatives to the General Assembly in Richmond will be giving their take on how this year's session went.

All BDC meetings are held at the Braddock District Supervisor's office at 9002 Burke Lake Road. They begin at 7:30 p.m. and try to be finished by 9:00 p.m.

The voting members of the BDC are representatives from dues paying civic associations and HOAs in the Braddock District, but everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings.

## Best of Braddock Awards

In addition to hosting presentations with information of interest to all residents, the Braddock District Council hosts the Best of Braddock Awards every July. The Best of Braddock Awards (BoBs) recognize the good things done by residents, public workers and businesses to make the Braddock District a better place to live. In the past, nominations were generally made in May, but BDC would like to encourage residents to submit nominations all year long, especially when something noteworthy has been done and it is fresh on your minds.

Categories recognized are Citizen of the Year, Young Person of the Year, Most Can-Do Public Employees, Club or Organization Making a Difference in the Braddock District, Outstanding Business or Business Person, and Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification by a group, individual or business. Think about all the good things people in your community have done over the last year. Think about some of the outstanding ways people helped one another during the recent snow storm. Think about someone who does something all year long, way under the radar, but that makes a difference in a positive way. It might be the neighbor who has a beautiful rose garden that they know brings joy to the community. It might be the group heading up the cleanup effort along the park stream. It might be the person who has continually given of themselves for years without recognition. It might be your mail delivery person. It might be the students who have had done something significant. It might be the person who has overcome long odds in order to get something accomplished.

For the next few months, we'll be highlighting some of the past recipients of the award, hoping that will prompt you to recall something special that has happened in your community. The nomination forms can be found by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/>. Please give some thought to those you

know who deserve a big thank you for the things that they do to make the Braddock District a better place to live!

## Homeless Youth Computer Program

Throughout the month of February, Fairfax County will be collecting old, but working laptops and tablets to provide to homeless youth attending Fairfax County Public Schools. These laptops will allow these students to complete homework, conduct research projects, and participate in school activities. The goal is to collect 500 laptops by the end of the month. Supervisor Cook's office (9002 Burke Lake Road) is acting as a drop-off location. Please drop off your old laptops or tablets Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

You can also volunteer to help with donations by visiting [americasadoptasoldier.org](http://americasadoptasoldier.org), by sending an email to [contact@americasadoptasoldier.org](mailto:contact@americasadoptasoldier.org), or by calling 703-278-3718.

Below is a list of other drop-off locations throughout Fairfax County:

- \*Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins (Hunter Mill District) - 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190
- \* Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay (Lee District) - 6121 Franconia Rd., Franconia, VA 22310
- \* Chairman Sharon Bulova - 12000 Government Center Parkway, Ste. 530, Fairfax, VA 22035
- \*Supervisor Penelope A. Gross (Mason District) - 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
- \*Supervisor John W. Foust (Dranesville District) - 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101
- \* Supervisor Kathy L. Smith (Sully District) - 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151
- \*Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield District) - 6140 Rolling Road Springfield, VA 22152

## Supervisor Cook in the Community

### **Ceremony for Women's Hospital at Inova**

**Fairfax:** On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended a ceremony for the opening of the new Women's Hospital at Inova Fairfax.

**Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce:** On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the launch of the new Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, formerly known as the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

**First Board Meeting of 2016:** On January 12<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook started his new term with the first Board Meeting of 2016 at the Government Center.

**Chairman Bulova's New Year Celebration:** On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook stopped by Chairman Bulova's wonderful New Year Celebration, which was held at the Government Center.

**24th Annual Economic Conference:** On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook attended the 24th Annual Economic Conference at the Ritz Carlton in Tysons Corner. This event is hosted yearly by Cardinal Bank in partnership with Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, George Mason University and the Washington Business Journal.

**Fairfax Campus Advisory Board Meeting:** On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook took part in the first George Mason Fairfax Campus Advisory Board meeting for 2016.

**FanQuest 2016/Special Olympics Basketball Game:** On January 16<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook was honored to give opening remarks at the beginning of the FanQuest 2016/Special Olympics Basketball Game, which was held at Robinson Secondary School.

**Croftwood HOA:** On January 20<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook spoke to members of the Croftwood HOA about issues affecting their community. The meeting was held at Braddock Hall.

**Appointee**

**Reception:** On January 28<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook hosted a reception in Braddock Hall for his appointees to various Fairfax County Boards, Authorities and Commissions.



**St. Mary of Sorrows Casino Night:** On January 30<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook stopped by Saint Mary of Sorrows Church for its Casino Night where all of the proceeds went to Marian Homes, which is a non-profit organization providing homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

## *Land Use Update*

### **Heritage Mall Community Information Meeting Scheduled**

On March 2, 2016 Supervisor Cook will host a Community Information Meeting on a proposal by the Webb Companies and Madison Homes to amend the Comprehensive Plan for the Heritage Mall. The meeting will be held on March 2, 2016 in the Braddock Elementary School Cafeteria at 7:30 p.m.

Heritage Mall is a 10.99 acre property located on the west side of Heritage Drive (Route 2630), on Tax Map 70-2 ((1)), Lots 1D1, 2A, and 2C. The eastern part of this property is currently developed with a 75,412 square foot retail shopping and office center. The western portion of the property includes a parking lot, a former service station, a convenience store and undeveloped open space. The site is currently zoned C-6 (Community Retail District).

In 2009, the exterior facades of the office building/CVS and H-Mart components of the center were renovated to create a more modern look. New signage was installed, and walkways replaced. In 2014, an existing arcade was removed and the in-line shops were renovated with new storefronts, new signage, and new walkways to complement the office and H-Mart components. A 6,000 square foot retail area in front of the H-Mart was removed and new space built. The rear of the center was renovated, utilities relocated, screen walls installed, and landscaping enhanced. The automobile service station at the back of the property was closed. Re-tenanting has brought in new stores and services.

The landowner is now proposing to develop the western portion of the site with 68 townhouses and associated residential amenities. The developer also proposes improved pedestrian connectivity, a community center, and additional enhancements to the shopping center parking lot and plaza areas.

Comments and suggestions by the community to improve this proposal are welcome at this meeting after the developer shares its proposal with attendees. The Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee will also be studying this proposal over the coming months.

## Noise Ordinance: The New Rules

The new law, which becomes effective February 17, 2016, prohibits certain noises during specific hours. For full details go to the following website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/new-noise-ordinance-passed/>

Below is a summary of noise that is prohibited by the new ordinance:

- **Loudspeakers/Amplifiers:** Using a loudspeaker or amplifier between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- **Noise Heard in Other Homes:** Making noise that can be plainly heard in another person's home with the doors and windows closed between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, or between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and the day before a federal holiday.
- **Power Lawn Equipment:** Operating power lawn equipment, including lawn mowers: (a) between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. when operating the equipment within 100 yards of a dwelling; or (b) between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. when operating the equipment 100 yards or more from a dwelling; or (c) between 9:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. for golf course maintenance when operating the equipment 50 yards or more from a dwelling; or (d) between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. for golf course maintenance when operating the equipment less than 50 yards from a dwelling. However, on all properties, the operation of leaf blowers is prohibited between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- **Fixing Cars:** Fixing cars or mechanical devices outside between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- **Collecting Trash:** Collecting trash or recycling within 100 yards of a residence between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- **Loading/Unloading Trucks:** Loading or unloading trucks outside within 100 yards of a residence between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- **Dog Parks:** Using dog parks Monday through Friday before 7:00 a.m. or after dusk or before 8:00 a.m. or after dusk on Saturday, Sunday or the day before a federal holiday.
- **Animal Barking, Howling, Etc.:** Barking, howling, meowing, squawking or quacking animals between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. when it can be heard inside a home with its doors and windows closed, or if these sounds can be heard between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. for more than five minutes consecutively or non-consecutively during a 10-minute period.
- **Athletic Fields** Noise from athletic fields is permitted between 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday, or between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on Friday, Saturday or the day before a Federal holiday. However, loudspeaker use remains prohibited between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

## Human Services Corner

Until April 18<sup>th</sup> the AARP Tax-Aide Program helps low to moderate income taxpayers by assisting with tax services and ensuring they receive applicable tax credits and deductions. The service is free and is provided by trained volunteers. The following sites provide income tax filing assistance. The sites operate on a walk-in basis. **Note:** All tax returns are filed electronically. All taxpayers **MUST** bring government-issued picture IDs and Social Security cards for all persons included on the tax return.

Super Sites/Walk-In Clients:  
Mason District Government Center  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale  
Mon. & Thurs., 1:00-8:00 p.m.

Tues., Wed., Fri., 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Sat., 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Closed February 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

SunTrust Bank of Vienna  
515 Maple Avenue E., Vienna  
Mon.-Fri., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Closed February 15th

Mott Community Center  
12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax  
Thurs., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Sat., 1:15-5 p.m.

Standard Sites/Walkin Clients:  
Providence Community Center  
3001 Vaden Dr., Fairfax  
Tues. & Fri., 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Reston Community Center  
2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston  
Tues., 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Thurs., 4:30-8:30 p.m.  
Sat., 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

### **Shepherd's Center Lunch N' Life**

Supervisor Cook will be acting as the guest speaker for Lunch N' Life on March 17th from noon until 2:00 p.m. It will take place at Jubilee Christian Church (4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax). For reservations, call Faye Quesenbery at 703-620-0161, by March 11th. The cost is \$10.00. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office (703) 323-4788. See [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org) for more information. Also, if you paid for January's Lunch N' Life, which was cancelled due to snow, please call to confirm your reservation for March. For more information call 703-281-0538 or go to [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org)

### **Shepherd's Center Dementia Caregivers Support Group**

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke provides a Dementia Caregivers Support Group on the second Tuesday of each month from noon until 1:15 p.m. It is held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (5114 Twinbrook Road in Fairfax).

### **Tax Relief Workshops**

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is hosting a series of free tax relief workshops in March at several locations throughout the county. Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications; you also may be eligible for car tax relief and tax relief for renters.

County staff from the Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will be at the locations listed below to assist with filling out the application form, as well as answering questions. The schedule is by district and you may contact the phone numbers listed below for more information on a workshop. All phone numbers are TTY 711.

More information on tax relief can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta), or call 703-222-8234 (TTY 703-222-7594).

Braddock District  
Hosted by Supervisor John Cook  
March 9<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No  
appointment necessary.  
Kings Park Library

9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke  
703-425-9300  
703-478-0283  
Lee District

Hosted by Supervisor Jeff McKay  
March 7th and 10th, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. No  
appointment necessary.  
Franconia Governmental Center  
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria  
703-971-6262

Mason District  
Hosted by Supervisor Penelope Gross  
March 16th and 18th, 9:00 a.m. to noon. No  
appointment necessary.  
Mason District Governmental Center  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale  
703-256-7717

Providence District  
Hosted by Supervisor Linda Smyth  
March 14th and 17th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Providence Community Center

3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax  
703-560-6946

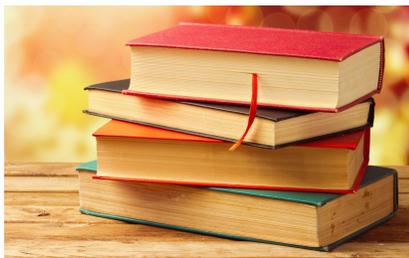
Springfield District  
Hosted by Supervisor Pat Herrity  
March 25th, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. No  
appointment necessary.  
West Springfield Governmental Center  
6140 Rolling Road, Springfield  
703-451-8873

Sully District  
Hosted by Supervisor Kathy Smith  
March 23rd, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No  
appointment necessary.  
Sully District Governmental Center  
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly  
703-814-7100

## Community Events in February

**Aging in Place, Feb. 17:** Aging in Place will take place at 9002 Burke Lake Road on February 17th at 1:00 p.m.

**Book talk with Dr. Bartoloni-Tuazon, Feb. 20:** Dr. Bartoloni-Tuazon will discuss her book, "For Fear of an Elective King: George Washington and the Presidential Title Controversy of 1789." This free event will take place at the City of Fairfax



Regional Library (10360 North St., Fairfax). For more information call 703-293-6227, ext. 6.

**Jazz concert, Feb. 20:** The Roy Assaf Trio will perform a mix of original compositions and classics at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (8900 Little River Tnpk). The cost is \$25.00 for members and for those 65 and older. Other prices range from \$20.00 to \$34.00.

## Environmental Update

It's time to place your orders for the 2016 Seedling Sale! The Conservation District's Annual Seedling Sale makes low-cost bare-root native shrub and tree seedlings available to Northern Virginia residents. The Shrub and Small Tree Package features ten seedlings for \$16.95. The Tree Package contains six seedlings for \$11.95. The theme of both is "Back By Popular Demand." Customers often tell us about favorite seedlings from past years, so this year's sale feature shrubs and trees that have been some of the most

popular and most requested year after year. Pictures and descriptions of the included seedlings and an online order form can be found on the District's website.

### **Spring 2016 Rain Barrel Workshop Schedule Announced**

A rain barrel is a 55-gallon recycled plastic barrel that connects to your downspout and allows you to capture and reuse rainwater while reducing polluted runoff. If you'd like a rain barrel of your own, the Northern Virginia Rain Barrel Partners have just released their spring schedule of build-your-own workshops and pre-made rain barrel sales. The schedule and registration information can be found by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/rainbarrels.htm>. Summer and fall dates will be posted as they are scheduled.

### **2016 Potomac River Watershed Cleanup**

The Alice Ferguson Foundation's 28th annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 16th. Volunteer groups throughout the Potomac Watershed will be organizing hundreds of community litter cleanups in the DC metro area. If you'd like to organize your own cleanup, you can register it now. You can find more information by visiting <http://fergusonfoundation.org>.

### **Green Spring's Winter Lecture Series**

This well-subscribed Winter Lecture Series features authors, garden designers, scientists, and other garden enthusiasts on the cutting edge of horticulture. It is scheduled for Sundays, 1:30-3:00 p.m., January through March. After the lecture, you can meet the speakers and enjoy refreshments. The cost is \$10. Coming up soon:

- History of Spices, February 14
- Mt. Cuba Plant Trials, February 21
- Gardening from Nature, February 28

Green Spring Gardens is located on 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Register through Parktakes Online or call 703-642-5173.

### **Need Funding for Your HOA's Conservation Landscaping Project?**

Want to do something environmentally friendly on your civic association property? Is heavy runoff causing distress in your neighborhood association? The Conservation District's new Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) provides technical assistance and 50 percent matching funding for qualifying projects. The first step in your application is to organize a site visit by Conservation District staff. Schedule your visit now so you'll be ready for the Summer/Fall 2016 application window! Visit the CAP program webpage at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/cap/>.

### **February Stream Monitoring Events**

There are two more local monitoring workshops in February. The first workshop will be in Reston on February 20<sup>th</sup> from noon until 3:00 p.m. (exact location TBD). The second workshop is on February 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. and will be held in Pohick Creek, Lorton/Newington Area.

## **Fairfax Water's Water Supply Outreach Grant Program**

Grants are available to qualified organizations that undertake water supply education or watershed protection projects. Grants may be in the form of funds, technical support, or equipment. The project must address issues within areas served by Fairfax Water or watersheds lying in Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, or Fauquier Counties. Applications must be postmarked by May 16, 2016. For more information, please visit <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/outreach/grants.htm>.

## **ReBuild Warehouse College Scholarship**

Do you know a high school senior who has done exceptional work in the field of environmental sustainability? The ReBuild Warehouse is offering up to \$2,500 in scholarship money for students who have excelled in supporting the Warehouse's overall goal of increasing sustainable practices. Applications are due by February 15th, and the winner will be announced in the spring of 2016.

## **Audubon Naturalist Society's Communities for Clean Streams Program**

For years, the Audubon Naturalist Society has trained stream monitors and monitored creek sites throughout the DC area. Their new Communities for Clean Streams Program supports people and partners in clean stream stewardship, grows the number of clean stream stewards in the DC metro region, influences local clean water policies and inspires individual best practices to produce cleaner streams in the region. Visit <http://cleanstreams.anshome.org> today and become a community member for free!

## **Paid Summer Internship: Horn Point Lab Oyster Hatchery**

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Horn Point Lab is seeking summer student interns. Interns will become part of the hatchery team and learn all aspects of oyster culture including broodstock management, spawning, larval culture, algal culture, settlement, outplanting, deployment, oyster seed production and facility maintenance. Open to high school seniors or college students with one year of course work towards biology, environmental science, or similar. For more information, contact [Stephanie Alexander](mailto:tobash@umces.edu) by sending an email to [tobash@umces.edu](mailto:tobash@umces.edu).

## **Remove Invasive Plants from Fairfax County's Natural Areas**

Invasive invaders such as kudzu, wisteria and stilt grass are pushing out important native flora and diminishing the health of our parklands. Help turn the tide against these exotic invaders by joining the Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteers and pulling these weeds out by their roots. Eight workdays are scheduled in February. The IMA volunteer calendar can be found online.