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2014: The Year in Review

2014 was a busy year for the Braddock District and Fairfax County. Here are some of the most notable things that happened last year:

Speeding Initiative

Since 2012, Supervisor Cook has been working to put an end to neighborhood speeding and unsafe driving in Braddock District and throughout the County. In August of 2014, the first installment of Supervisor Cook's Speeding Initiative was launched. The kickoff event was a public education campaign to curb speeding in Fairfax County. The campaign was a collaborative endeavor between Supervisor Cook's office, the Board of Supervisors, the County Office of Public Affairs, and the Fairfax County Police Department. The campaign features the slogan, "Slow Down: You live here, we live here," and included community education events throughout the fall. Several communities have endorsed the initiative and the "Slow Down" signs have been popping up all over the County.



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

Board Passes Historic Stormwater Management Ordinance

On January 28, the Board of Supervisors adopted a series of amendments to the County's Stormwater Ordinance. The new rules will help protect stream channels and water quality by placing a cap on the amount of stormwater and pollutants permitted to flow from newly-developed properties. The new ordinance aims to capture and treat runoff closer to its source. The rules will result in a greater use of rain gardens, green roofs, and other low impact development techniques to deal with runoff from new development. These methods better mimic nature by slowing, reducing, and reusing stormwater runoff.

On Supervisor Cook's motion, the Board adopted an amendment to this ordinance that ensures that any homeowner project that adds less than 500 square feet of additional impervious surface to a home will not become subject to the ordinance. This amendment strikes a balance between protecting the environment and allowing homeowners the freedom to make improvements.

Domestic Violence Awareness Event

Every October, events are held to increase consciousness about this terrible tragedy that, unfortunately, is much more common than you may think. In September, Supervisor Cook read a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This was followed by the initiation and promotion of the National Purple Purse Campaign. As the “purple purse” was passed among offices in Fairfax County, money was raised to develop services to empower domestic violence victims.

Additionally, Supervisor Cook, in partnership with Fairfax City Mayor Silverthorne, hosted an awareness event at Coyote Grille in Fairfax City in support of Artemis House/Shelter House and Court Appointed Special Advocates. It was a fantastic event bringing together many community members and advocates. Supervisor Cook was also honored to speak at the 10th annual Grand Day Celebration. This event is put on every year by the Women’s Group of Mount Vernon and the focus is always Domestic Violence Awareness.

Lastly, earlier this year, on June 25, Supervisor Cook was named one of Shelter House, Inc.’s Community Champions for his work to prevent and end domestic violence.

Board Approves 50+ Plan

On Tuesday, September 23, the Fairfax County 50 + Plan was approved by the Board. Folks from across the County came out to celebrate the great strides Fairfax is taking in improving comfortable and independent living for our senior population. The plan addresses gaps in services and possibilities for future improvements to the challenges facing our seniors. Thirty-one initiatives were enumerated with the guiding

principles to be attainable, affordable, and actionable within the next five years.

Neighborhood College Programs

In both the spring and fall of 2014, Supervisor Cook hosted a Neighborhood College program. The Neighborhood College is a civic engagement program open to residents interested in learning about Fairfax County and how to work with neighbors, community organizations, and local government. Supervisor Cook is a Neighborhood College graduate and knows personally the tremendous value this program can bring to the community.

Sexual Assault Board Matter

On December 2, the Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Cook’s board matter that directs County staff to assess current methods to prevent sexual violence, and to utilize those assessments to develop new ideas on how to educate our public school students on sexual assault awareness. Supervisor Cook’s efforts focus on teaching our children, and population as a whole, that sexual assault is a serious crime and will not be tolerated in our society. Supervisor Cook’s board matter encourages our community to engage in new efforts directed toward those who commit these crimes, and to work to ensure sexual assault is viewed with the seriousness it deserves.

Individualized Education Program Event

On November 15, Supervisor Cook hosted an Individualized Education Program (IEP) navigation workshop discussing some of the challenges facing parents and students when an IEP is needed. The workshop included a panel of experts and allowed parents to discuss plans and goals, and how to best navigate what can sometimes be a very intimidating process.

Fairfax County Budget Discussions

Just before Thanksgiving, the Board of Supervisors met with the Fairfax County School Board for the annual joint budget meeting. There are many tough decisions ahead as the County continues to face many economic challenges. While the Northern Virginia job market is slowly improving, job growth is still lagging behind what was experienced before the recession. In fact, overall economic growth in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area is dead last among major metropolitan areas in the country - even behind Detroit. This slow job growth is having a big effect on our housing market, and is resulting in lower than anticipated residential values. The commercial market is also struggling as a result, with office vacancy rates at their highest since 1991.

All of this has led to decreased county revenue, and the County is currently projecting a budget shortfall of \$100.89 million for Fiscal Year 2016, which begins July 1, 2015. Since the needs that have been identified are already higher than our current resources, it is incumbent on the Board to prioritize in the upcoming months.

Below is a timeline of the Budget Process which will be occurring throughout the next several months:

January 8, 2015	FY 2016 School Board (FCPS) releases Proposed Budget
February 5, 2015	The School Board (FCPS) adopts its FY 2016 Advertised Budget
February 17, 2015	County Executive's FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan released
March 3, 2015	Advertisement for FY 2016 Tax Rate and FY 2015 Third Quarter
April 7, 2015	Effective Tax Rate Hearing, Board Auditorium, Govt. Center, 3:00 p.m.
April 7, 2015	Public Hearing on County Budget, Board Auditorium, Govt. Center, 4:00 p.m.
April 8, 2015	Public Hearing on County Budget, Board Auditorium, Govt. Center, 1:00 p.m.
April 9, 2015	Public Hearing on County Budget, Board Auditorium, Govt. Center, 1:00 p.m.
April 21, 2015	County Board Budget Mark-Up and Approval of FY 2015 Third Quarter
April 28, 2015	County Board of Supervisors Formal Adoption of the FY 2016 Budget Plan
May 21, 2015	School Board (FCPS) adopts its FY 2016 Approved Budget
July 1, 2015	Beginning of FY 2016

I-95 Express Lanes Are Now Open

Commuters are now able to use an E-ZPass for travel on the I-95 Express Lanes in Northern Virginia. The I-95 HOV lanes from the Edsall Road area on I-395 in Fairfax County to Garrisonville Road in Stafford County (approximately 29 miles) converted to express lanes on December 29th. To learn how to use the new lanes and understand the rules of the road, visit 95ExpressLanes.com/using. Unlike the I-495 Express Lanes, these are reversible lanes and are only available during certain hours.

APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE*		
WEEKDAYS	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
CLOSED Midnight to 2 a.m.	OPEN Southbound Midnight to 2 p.m.	OPEN Northbound Midnight to midnight
OPEN Northbound 2 a.m. to 11 a.m.	CLOSED 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	
CLOSED 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	OPEN Northbound 4 p.m. to midnight	
OPEN Southbound 1 p.m. to midnight		

* Subject to change

To receive toll-free travel, three or more people must be in a vehicle and an E-ZPass Flex must be set to HOV mode. E-ZPass Flex works like a regular E-ZPass but allows drivers to switch between HOV and toll-paying modes. Motorists, who do not plan to carpool, can pay the toll using a standard E-ZPass transponder. To obtain an E-ZPass Flex transponder, or exchange a standard transponder click [here](#). To ensure a smooth trip:

- Make sure your license plate number is linked to your E-ZPass account
- Make sure your account is in good standing with sufficient funds
- Ensure that your address is updated and correct with the DMV
- Consider setting up an account with auto replenishment to avoid having to monitor your account balance

On the Express Lanes, you will travel under toll gantries at highway speeds. There are E-ZPass readers along the length of the road. To ensure your E-ZPass can be read and that your toll can be calculated correctly, your transponder must be properly mounted to your windshield.

More information can be found at 95ExpressLanes.com.

Email Subscription 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 and write "BEACON" in the subject line.

EQAC Annual Public Hearing

The Environmental Quality Advisory Council's (EQAC) annual public hearing on the environment will be held on Wednesday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Conference Rooms 2 and 3 of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, 22035. The Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) is appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to advise on environmental matters. The public is encouraged to attend EQAC's public hearing to share views on the state of the environment and to identify environmental issues applicable to Fairfax County. Environmental issues considered by EQAC include water quality, air quality, noise, hazardous materials, solid waste, stream valley protection, wildlife management, light pollution, visual pollution, energy, climate change response and adaptation, land use, transportation, and the use and preservation of ecological resources. The hearing is intended to hear your views and concerns regarding environmental issues of interest to you. EQAC welcomes written and/or verbal testimony. To be put on the speaker's list or for more information, please contact the Department of Planning and Zoning at 703-324-1380 or EQAC@Fairfaxcounty.gov. You may also submit video testimony. Upload your 5-minute-or-shorter video to YouTube, Ustream or Vimeo and email the URL to Planning and Zoning at the email address above.

Supervisor Cook in the Community

On **December 5th**, Supervisor Cook attended the Burke Centre Volunteer Recognition Celebration which was held at the Woods Community Center.

On **December 8th**, Supervisor Cook helped distribute awards at the Martha Glennan 2014 Disability Inclusion and Equality Award Ceremony which was held at the Fairfax County Government Center.

On **December 9th**, Supervisor Cook hosted some Scouts from Troop 1965 at his office and talked to them about his role in local government. This was to help them achieve their Citizenship Badges. If you have any Scouts who would like to meet with Supervisor Cook, please contact his office and it can be set up.

On **December 10th**, Supervisor Cook took part in a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new Express Lanes on I-95. Later that evening, he and his staff opened their doors to the community for the annual Taste of Braddock Reception. This year was the best one yet and was a great way to kick off the holiday season.

On **December 11th**, Supervisor Cook took part in a meeting to discuss campus sexual assaults and excessive drinking on local college campuses. Representatives from the City of Fairfax and George Mason University

are very much in favor of tackling this serious problem.

On **December 13th**, Supervisor Cook took his family on the annual VRE Santa Train ride. Later in the afternoon, he attended the annual Silas Burke Christmas Open House on the grounds of the historic Silas Burke House.

On **December 14th**, Supervisor Cook played the role of Santa as he rode around the Bonnie Brae neighborhood in a shiny red fire engine and waved to all the children and adults.

On **December 15th**, Supervisor Cook participated in the Community Resilience Program Seminar held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Fairfax. This was the first of a two part series which is being put on by Volunteer Fairfax, Faith Communities in Action, and Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management. The goal is to have a network of citizens and local non-profits, as well as County staff, who will work together in the case of a serious emergency.

On **December 18th**, Supervisor Cook held a small ceremony in his office to present the proceeds from his Domestic Violence Fundraiser to the Directors of Shelter House and CASA. Later in the day, he talked with Scouts about the importance of local government as they prepare to earn their Merit Badges.



Braddock Neighborhood News: Fairfax County Hypothermia Prevention Program

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 to share pertinent news with the viewers. This January, Supervisor Cook's show focuses on The County's Hypothermia Prevention Program. Joining him are Thomas Barnett, the Program Manager for the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, and Abigail Dunner, the Hypothermia Program Coordinator for FACETS.



The Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program operates from November through March every year and is dedicated to keeping the most vulnerable community members safe during the harsh winter months. Thankfully there are organizations that look out for those who need shelter and food during these extremely frigid winter nights.

The show airs 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.

Need Help or Know Someone that Does?

From 2011 to 2014, the Community Services Board (CSB) saw a 22 percent increase in the number of individuals who reported having used heroin, non-prescription methadone, or other opiates and were in need of service. During 2013 to 2014, the number of deaths from heroin overdose doubled in Fairfax County. Obviously, our community is not immune to the epidemic of addictions that are sweeping through the country.

If you or someone you love needs help to overcome drug dependence, call us at 703-383-8500. Our staff can help you find appropriate treatment and recovery resources. **In an emergency, call the Fairfax Detoxification Center at 703-502-7000 or CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679.** Both numbers are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. **If the emergency is life-threatening, call 911.** Our Fire and Rescue personnel carry medication that can prevent deaths from opiate overdose.

Land Use Update

Bernhardt's Busy Bear Day Care (SE 2014-BR-063) On January 14, the Planning Commission will hear testimony on a proposal to allow a home child care facility to serve 12 children in a Danbury Forest residence at 5509 Mitcham Court, off Clydesdale Road. This business has a Virginia State license, and has been operating at this location for 15 years. Staff is recommending approval, and the proposal has also received endorsements from surrounding neighbors. The full staff report can be found here: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdf/4473442.PDF>. This project will come to the Board of Supervisors for a hearing on February 17 at 3:30 p.m.

Chik-fil-A in Burke Centre. (PRC-C-546-03; DPA-C-546-24; PCA 83-S-029-02) The applicant proposes to remove a vacant bank building on this site and construct a fast food restaurant. The site is located at 5815 Burke Centre Parkway in land bay 8E adjacent to Kohl's. The specific proposal is for a 4,779 square foot one story all-brick building with 109 seats and a children's indoor playground of about 250-300 square feet. There will be about 20 additional seats outside and approximately 48 parking spaces. There will also be a dual drive-thru lane which will accommodate 22 cars at one time to preclude backups onto the internal access road off Burke Centre Parkway. There will be a new sidewalk along this internal road from Burke Centre Parkway to facilitate pedestrian access along with bike racks and Wi-Fi access. In December, this application was

reviewed by the Burke Centre Conservancy Architectural Review Board and approved. The applicant is currently working with staff to resolve transportation and stormwater concerns. A public hearing before the Planning Commission is scheduled for February 11, 2015.

McDonald's Corporation. (PRC-A-787-03, concurrent with SEA 82-S-097-02). On December 31, an application filed by McDonald's was accepted for processing by the County. McDonald's proposes to replace its existing structure at 6219 Rolling Road. Modifications were last approved in 1983. The site is 1.06 acres and located in Cardinal Forest. The new structure will reduce indoor seating from 105 seats to 74, have 38 parking spaces, and will continue to be open 24 hours with a drive-thru lane. According to documents filed with the County, this business serves about 2,100 patrons per week. The staff coordinator for the Department of Planning and Zoning will be Joe Gorney. A tentative Planning Commission hearing date of May 5, 2015 has been established.

Proposed Health Club in Burke. WB Properties LLC (Olympus Gyms) has submitted a Special Permit application (SPA 2014-BR-117) to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a 20,000 square foot structure at 10906 Clara Barton Drive. Such applications are not reviewed or approved by the Board of Supervisors. The BZA is appointed by the Circuit Court and does not report to the Board.

This property is zoned I-6 (Industrial Zone) and totals 1.85 acres. This case will head back to the Board of Zoning Appeals on January 28th for a second public hearing because the applicant asked for an opportunity to submit plans for a smaller structure. Here is the link to the original staff report:

<http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdf/4471580.PDF>. Staff recommended denial.

It should be noted that after the staff report was published, the applicant remedied some of the denial issues. However, there was no decrease in the number of patrons (1500), or the hours of operation (5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days per week).

Prior to the next public hearing, there will be a staff addendum published. The Board of Zoning Appeals meets in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals meetings are also aired live on the County Government's cable TV Channel 16. To testify on this case, call the Clerk to the BZA at 703-324-1280. A letter for the record addressed to the Board of Zoning Appeals can also be submitted to Laura.Gumkowski@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Human Services Corner

Fairfax County has initiated a Veterans Treatment Docket and is leading the mission in providing critical care for veterans and their families. Supervisor Cook is proud to support this effort and is pleased to note that Fairfax will be the first County in Virginia to host a Certified Veterans Docket.

The Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket recognizes the toll placed on Veterans that accompanies military service, and the mission is to increase public safety by incorporating a focused docket for veterans who have been arrested for crimes, but who have mental health issues, to avoid jail time by completing an intense, extensive treatment course. The Veterans Treatment Docket team collaborates with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, Sheriff, Chief of Police, Department of Veterans Affairs, Community Service Board, Judges, and many others. As a result of being the first court in Virginia to be certified, the program is in line for a two year grant to help fund the startup and maintenance of the program.

The goal is to provide proper care and support in order to rehabilitate and return the veteran to a productive, law-abiding life: ultimately reducing recidivism and criminal justice costs. The option of a Veterans Treatment Docket offers problem solving skills, counseling, and a former service mentor. While Fairfax's docket will be a first for Virginia, there are over 200 Veteran Treatment Courts/Dockets throughout the United States. On Thursday, February 21, the Inaugural Veterans Treatment Docket Dedication Ceremony will take place marking a great achievement for Virginia and for Fairfax County.

Community Events throughout January

Introduction to Special Education Workshop, Jan. 14: This orientation is for parents who are new to Special Education to learn about the process and the resources available. This event is most appropriate for parents with children in the referral or eligibility phase of the Special Education process. The event will be held at the Fairfax County Public School Parent Resource Center from 10:00 a.m. until noon. You can [register online](#) now or [click here](#) for more information.



Campfire Saturdays at Royal Lake, Jan. 17: Join us for a campfire from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. at Royal Lake. Adventure awaits you as you explore the woodlands where wildlife hides and resides. Bring anything that you would like to roast. S'mores are provided. The cost is \$7. [Register online](#). For more information, call 703-451-9588.

Braddock District Aging in Place, Jan. 21: This event will take place from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Kings Park Library. The topic to be discussed is Home Fitness Routines.

Stuff the Bus: Helping Fairfax Families

As the cold winter months settle in, many people continue to go hungry in our community. For many local, nonprofit food pantries, this is the time of year where donations drop to one of their lowest points. From January 17 to February 16, Fairfax County is promoting its annual "Stuff the Bus: Helping Fairfax Families" program at thirteen locations. This program is a partnership among Fairfax County Government, local grocery stores, and nonprofits to restock the shelves. Each week a Fastran bus will park at a different location and collect food donations.



Donation hours are from **9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** A full list of donation sites can be found [here](#). Opportunities to donate in close proximity to Braddock include the following locations and dates:

Saturday, Jan. 17
Fairfax Walmart
11181 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22030
Benefiting James Mott Community Assistance Program

Saturday, Jan. 31
Cardinal Forest Giant
8320 Old Keene Mill Road
Springfield, VA 22152
Benefiting Ecumenical Community Helping Others

Saturday, Feb. 14
Annandale Giant
7137 Columbia Pike
Annandale, VA 22003
Benefiting Annandale Christian Community for Action

Monday, Feb. 16
Fair City Mall Shoppers
9622 Main Street
Fairfax, VA 22031
Benefiting Our Daily Bread